



February / March 2015

## In this month's issue:

- Judo News from Around the Country
- Upcoming Events





# Table of Contents

Regional Coordinator's Message	1
Our NEW USJA Clubs!	2
Newly Certified USJA Coaches	2
New USJA Life Members	3
USJA Promotional Tools and using the	4
The new USJA Promotion Guide	11
Adult Judo Development at the Karl Geis	16
Youth Judo Tournament	18
Sensei Andor Paposi Jobb	19
Membership Incentives	20
The Need For The Recreational Judoka	21
Sensei Charlie Robinson	23
Real Judo	25
The Obi	26
Plan for Success	28
Judo News from Around the Country	31
Yuuki no Shiai	33
Alex learns about Nokido	37
Girl Power	38
Memorial	41
Update on The new USJA Judo Technical Manual	42
Reactions	43
USJA Promotions	44
USJA New Certified Rank Examiner (CRE) Program	46
From our friends at Blind Judo	49
Upcoming Events	51



## 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@cablone.net

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



# USJA



## Our NEW USJA Clubs!



### Redlands Training Center

**Location:** Redlands, CA  
**Phone:** 909-825-1510

### Jyoshinkan

**Location:** Hollywood, FL  
**Phone:** 954-914-5254

## Newly Certified USJA Coaches

### Congratulations to our Newly Certified USJA Coaches

- ★ Fred G Barnett, Elizabethtown IN
- ★ Michelle Ritchie, North Port FL
- ★ Matthew Fleisig, Syosset NY
- ★ Paul Rivera, Staten Island NY
- ★ Steven M Clary, Altus OK
- ★ James J Foley, Jamestown NY
- ★ Earl DelValle, Northport FL





## Our NEW USJA Clubs!

- ★ Michael L Szrejter, Boynton Beach FL
- ★ Maury Sasso, Fresno CA
- ★ Lesley Hutchins, Sun Prairie WI
- ★ Lonnie G Ross, Pace FL Japan
- ★ Gevorg Mutafyan, Glendale CA

## New USJA Life Members

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

- ★ Jason R Bruce, Bowling Green KY
- ★ Edward Richardson, Signal Hill CA
- ★ James J Foley, Jamestown NY
- ★ James G Ragan, Melbourne FL
- ★ Chase Stalcup, Irving TX
- ★ Chris Evers, Wichita Falls TX
- ★ Brian Sell, Lebanon PA
- ★ Robert Diaz, New Rochelle NY
- ★ Justin Lasut, Lewistown PA



# USJA Promotional Tools and using the new Recommendation for Promotion

You should have purchased the new USJA Judo Technical Manual and Study Guide with Senior Rank Promotion System called "The Guide" by now and have had a chance to review it. While it is possible to apply for promotion without it will be difficult and will cause considerable delays be considered for the promotion you have earned.

The spread sheet cover Ikkyu to Judan and how to use is presented in considerable detail as is the Guide however that does not mean that it does not require time to study and understand. Please bear in mind many of you spend years earning promotion then to be frustrated spending a few hours to understand and fill out the required form or provide documentation. You are not being singled out, everyone must follow the procedure if they want to advance.

Shown below is a chart list the requirements regarding time in grade, the number of points and sign off requirements. The total list of activities and point value as well as much more information is found in the Guide.

## USJA Senior Promotion Requirements

### BELT COLOR AND MINIMUM "TIME IN GRADE" REQUIREMENTS -- 6th Kyu to 1st Kyu

The chart below denotes belt color, minimum TIG and classes required for each rank. A class must be at least one hour long and no more than 2 classes a day can be counted.

RANK	BELT COLOR	Minimum Time in Grade	
		Months	Classes
Novice	White	----	----
6th kyu	Yellow	2	15
5th kyu	Orange	3	22
4th kyu	Green	5	38
3rd kyu	Brown	6	50
2nd kyu	Brown	8	75
1st kyu	Brown	10	100

# USJA



# USJA Promotional Tools and using the new Recommendation for Promotion

1st to 5th DAN Rank/Belt	A @60 pts/yr TIG/points	B @50 pts/yr TIG/points	C @0 pts/yr, 4,5D=20 TIG/points	Sign off # Rank or above
1 Dan Black	1/60	2/100	3/120	(1) 3D
2 Dan Black	2/120	3/150	4/160	(1) 4D
3 Dan Black	4/240	5/250	6/240	(1) 5D
4 Dan Black/Red	5/300	6/300	7/280	(2) 6D
5 Dan Black/Red	6/360	7/35	8/320	(2) 7D
6st to 10th DAN Rank/Belt	A @90 pts/yr TIG/points	B @70 pts/yr TIG/points	C @30 pts/yr TIG/points	Sign off # Rank or above
6 Dan Red/white	7/630	8/560	9/450	(1)6D+(2)7D
7 Dan Red/white	8/720	9/630	10/500	(2)7D+(1)8D
8 Dan Red/white	9/810	10/700	11/550	(2)7D+(1)8D+(1)9D
9 Dan Red	10 yr min + PB	10 yr min + PB	10 yr min + PB	(2)7D+(2)8D+(1)9D
10 Dan Red	11 yr min + PB	11 yr min + PB	11 yr min + PB	(2)7D+(3)8D+(2)9D

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Only those with documented activities at the highest levels are considered for high dan promotions. Sixty percent (60%) or more of the activities must be at the levels shown as follows or higher. Activities that include those for visually impaired VI such as Parapan Games, Para World, and Paralympics also meet this requirement equally.

- 6th Dan local and State level
- 7th Dan State and Regional level
- 8th Dan National + Pan Am level
- 9th Dan International + Continental
- 10th Dan World and Olympic



# USJA Promotional Tools and using the new Recommendation for Promotion

The follow acronyms appear in the Guide and Recommendation for Promotion

(1)6D+(2)7D Indicates how many required and their rank to sign off This case one 6th Dan and two 7th Dan

A, B, C, D, Alphabetical letter assigned to those who achieve or exceed a certain number of points or TIG

Back Dues A fee paid by those who let membership or SLM expire to regain TIG

BB Black Belt

BGS Back Ground Screen Those that submit to back ground check of their criminal history

BOD Board of Directors elected officials of USJA

CRE Certified Rank Examiner someone meeting requirements to sign off applicants for promotion

D Dan Grade of Black Belt as in first Dan

ED Executive Director of USJA

K Kyu Grade as ranks under black belt

LM Life member

MCRE Master Rank Examiner one level higher than NCRE with higher authority to sign off

NCRE National Rank Examiner one level higher than CRE with higher authority to sign off

PB Promotion Board

Pts Points as in promotion points numerical value give for activities

RFP Recommendation for Promotion form

SLM Life member sustaining someone paying yearly sustaining fee

TE Technical Evaluator person that evaluates promotion forms

TIG Time in Grade the time that one remains active in judo since their last promotion

YR Year(s)

The following instructions can be found on the USJA website and can be down downloaded and are operational using the proper programs.

The instruction file is : Using the USJA Senior Points Summary Template A.doc

The Spread sheet file is: USJA Senior Points Summary Template A.xls

Note: this is totally operational



# USJA Promotional Tools and using the new Recommendation for Promotion

## Opening the Points Template file

The file, "USJA Senior Points Template.xls", is a spreadsheet for calculating your current points for promotion purposes. It has been tested with Microsoft Office (<http://office.microsoft.com>), LibreOffice (<http://www.libreoffice.org/>), and Apache OpenOffice (<https://www.openoffice.org/>).

All of the editable fields on each sheet are marked in yellow for ease of use and the sheets are locked so only these fields can be changed. Fields marked in green contain formulas and references that are automatically filled in as you enter the information.

## Initial Information – The Point Summary tab

The summary sheet tab has four fields to fill in at the top; your name, current rank, the date you received your current rank, and the current date.

Enter your name here.

Select your current rank here.

Enter the date you received your current rank.

Select your time in grade level here.

Enter the current date here

USJA Points Summary									
Fill in yellow sections. Sections in green will automatically be filled in.									
Name	Current Rank	Rank Date	TIG Level	Next Rank	Required TIG (years)	Points Required			Current Date
YEARS									TOTAL

To fill in your name simply select the yellow box underneath name and type your name in.

USJA Points Summary	
Fill in yellow sections. Sections	
Name	Current Rank
John Doe	
YEARS	
St	

Name  
Please enter your name.





# USJA Promotional Tools and using the new Recommendation for Promotion

To fill in your current rank simply select the yellow box under rank and a drop down box will appear with all the ranks available. Select your current rank here.

USJA Points Summary		
Fill in yellow sections. Sections in green will auto		
Name	Current Rank	Rank Date
John Doe	Shodan	
YEARS		
Competition		
Shiai Tournaments		

Current rank. Select current rank.

To fill in the rank date select the yellow box underneath rank date and fill it in with the date you received your current rank in mm/dd/yyyy format.

USJA Points Summary			
Fill in yellow sections. Sections in green will automatically be filled in.			
Name	Current Rank	Rank Date	TIG Level
John Doe	Shodan	11/11/2013	
YEARS			
Competition			
Shiai Tournaments			
Kata Tournaments			
Competition Total			

Date last rank achieved. Please input the date you achieved your last rank in mm/dd/yyyy format.

The time in grade level (TIG) is can be determined by using the table on the second tab of the spreadsheet or by looking at the "Rank Table: Rank TIG Points and Rank and number of Sign off Required" on page 35 of the USJA Senior Manual.



# USJA Promotional Tools and using the new Recommendation for Promotion

**USJA Points Summary**  
Fill in yellow sections. Sections in green will automatically be filled in.

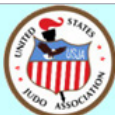
Name	Current Rank	Rank Date	TIG Level		Next Rank
John Doe	Shodan	11/11/2013	A		Nidan
YEARS	2013				
<b>Competition</b>					
Shiai Tournaments					
Kata Tournaments					
<b>Competition Total</b>					
<b>Service to the USJA</b>					

**Time In Grade Level**  
To find the TIG level please see the USJA Senior Manual or the Points Required for TIG level chart under the Promotion Point Requirements tab below.

To fill in the current date select the yellow box underneath current date and fill it in with the date of application in mm/dd/yyyy format.

Once you've entered these fields you'll notice several of the green fields will be automatically updated with information including the next rank, eligibility date for the next rank, and the number of points needed for your next rank.

**USJA Points Summary**  
Fill in yellow sections. Sections in green will automatically be filled in.



Name	Current Rank	Rank Date	TIG Level		Next Rank	Required TIG (years)	Points Required			Current Date
John Doe	Shodan	11/11/2013	A		Nidan	2	120			11/23/2015

## Filling in the Points

To fill in the points on the sheet you would simply fill in the year at the top in the column you want to enter the first year of points.

**USJA Points Summary**  
Fill in yellow sections. Sections in green will automatically be filled in.

Name	Current Rank	Rank
John Doe	Shodan	11/11
YEARS	2013	
<b>Competition</b>		
Shiai Tournaments		



# USJA Promotional Tools and using the new Recommendation for Promotion

Underneath that year enter the points for each activity for that year. You'll notice the green cells updated with the total points that have been entered for each category. Descriptions of each category as well as the point that can be earned are in the USJA Senior Manual pages 29-34.

Name	Current Rank	Rank Date	TIG Level	Next Rank	Required TIG (years)	Points Required	Current Date
John Doe	Shodan	11/11/2013	A	Nidan	2	120	11/23/2015
YEARS	2013						TOTAL
<b>Competition</b>							
Shiai Tournaments	10						10
Kata Tournaments	4						4
<b>Competition Total</b>							14
<b>Service to the USJA</b>							
Clinic Attendance							0
Class Attendance	2						2
Officiating (referee/ judging)							

Continue filling the sheet out, it will automatically tally the points:

Name	Rank	Rank Date	TIG Level	Next Rank	TIG (years)	Required	Date
John Doe	Shodan	11/11/2013	A	Nidan	2	120	11/23/2015
YEARS	2013	2014	2015				TOTAL
<b>Competition</b>							
Shiai Tournaments	10	70	93				173
Kata Tournaments	4	18	6				28
<b>Competition Total</b>							201
<b>Service to the USJA</b>							
Clinic Attendance							0
Class Attendance	2	24	22				30
Officiating (referee/ judging)							

Points from class are limited to 25% of total points needed

You'll notice that some of the class points are not being tallied. This is because only 25% of the required point for promotion can be from class points. This rule also applies to life membership. Once you finish filling out the sheet the total points will be listed at the bottom.

Kata Certification								0
Life Membership								0
<b>Service Total</b>								30
<b>Grand Total</b>								231

Please download the operational spreadsheet to calculate activity points which are added to the RFP.

File name **USJA Senior Points Summary Template A.xls**



# The new USJA Promotion Guide

How to complete the Recommendation for Promotion Form (RFP) for all Senior Judo Ranks and earn promotion? See acronyms at the end

## Background

The USJA has just published a long overdue USJA Judo Technical Manual and Study Guide with Senior Rank Promotion System. It is available now by calling the USJA National office.

Please understand that many people including your Sensei and Coach, the USJA PB, the USJA BOD and USJA Office Personnel spend significant time insuring you receive your earned promotion. It is not easy nor automatic however following the system and devoting yourself to learning promotions will come. Please recognize that procedures need to be followed and take these into consideration.

The new promotion standard shown in the new Guide is effective now however you may use either old or new system until March 30, 2015 after that date the old form and system will not be accepted and any Promotions submitted using the old system will not be processed. While you can use either system you must meet and follow all requirements in that system. Please be sure to use the form dated January 1, 2015 or after for promotions using the new system. If you use the incorrect form it will not be processed and will delay consideration of the recommendation.

**Many things have changed such as recognizing those that are exceptional in shorter TIG.** The first thing you will notice there are 4 levels A to D where A has the shortest Time In Grade (TIG) however it requires much more activity to qualify in this shorter time. Not everyone performs at the same level therefore the need to offer an incentive for those that have the ability, desire and time to do more is the correct approach. Some are exceptional athletes winning many events, others are outstanding coaches of large clubs, others just want to attend classes and help when they can. All are important. The level of activity also varies from local to Olympic and the amount of activity is from everyday to a few times a month therefore we found a way to consider this in the four levels.

Certain ranks require much higher levels of activity for example someone that desires a promotion to 7th Dan needs to perform and do activities on State and Regional levels. Someone who does not desire to do anything at National and Pan Am level should not expect promotions to 8th Dan.

You will also notice there is less TIG required for levels A and B than the old system. These levels are for the exceptional and it is estimated fewer than 5-10% of all applicants will be considered. For this reason considerable documentation and detail must be present to the Promotion Board (PB) if you expect to earn a promotion at minimum TIG. If what you present to the PB lacks detail or does not raise to this level the PB could ask you to wait and or do more.

For USJA ranks to mean anything we must have a standard to be proud of. When you submit your RFP it must reflect the highest quality. Someone that scribbles a few lines and does not present a professional presentation should not expect acceptance. The PB however is not here to reject promotions but to insure a certain standard is met. They also are there to help you whatever the issue is.

You will also notice that it requires additional higher black belt ranks to test, witness and or reviewed before they approve which is considered a "Sign Off". The person signing off must do one or more of the following; test, witness the test, review the documentation. They are not permitted to sign off anyone while only seeing the sign off sheet. Anyone that knowingly violates the procedure including the applicant is doing harm to the integrity of the promotion system and hurting everyone. You will notice a series of letters and numbers which indicate how many black belts and the rank they must have in order to recommend you. A notation such as;



# The new USJA Promotion Guide

(1) 6D+(2)7D means you need one- 6th Dan and two- 7th Dan that are active USJA members having at least this rank to test and or review you and your paperwork.

**You still must have the approval of the head of the club.**

## How do I fill out the RFP?

It is very important to first gather all of the detailed information you have regarding your activities since your last promotion. Only the activities since your last promotion and only points as an active USJA Annual or life member with paid up sustaining life member dues apply. You can choose to pay back dues and this will gain lost TIG but no points. You also only receive points for the years your certifications are valid. If you were a referee and your certification expired you no longer receive points for any referee activity while expired. Once you recertify you will start to earn points again. If you fail to provide detail the points will be considered invalid. Remember more the detail the better.

**If your membership or as a life member your SLM has expired now if you contact the office by March 15, 2015 and pay the back dues you will be able to not only retain your TIG but any points you may have lost during this period of inactivity. After March 15 this exception no longer applies so consider this ASAP so that you can retain your TIG and points.**

We have made available a spreadsheet which will aid you entering the points you receive and will tabulate the totals. When used this SS will show the points which will be entered on the RFP. You should consider using and attaching this SS as it helps evaluating your RFP.

I want to extend many thanks to Brent Betourne for his expert help working on the spreadsheet and the instructions on how to use. There have been provided many drop down menu allowing you to select categories and enter information more easily. Without his help this would not have been possibly.

The details on points, TIG, testing, activities and other requirements are contained within the new USJA Guide and it would be very difficult to complete the RFP without it. You should order ASAP.

Please understand promotions are not automatic that is why the form is called "Recommendation" for Promotion and no matter who signs off if it lacks the required documented and fails to meet requirements it cannot be processed. The new Guide will give you information on how to prepare and be sure you meet the requirements.

**The RFP form in detail. It is highly recommended you type not only the form but other info.**

**Page One:** The top section is for your personal information; please fill it out completely because missing detail will result in your promotion package not being processed.

The chart found on page one states many requirements such as Points required, who and how many "sign off" and Level Achieved. See which level you qualify for and enter the info.

You will also enter the Current Points you have from the activities you have documented and describe in detail. This detail must be attached to be considered. The SS described above will aid you gathering this data and it is recommended you include when you send in your final promotion package. This SS and instructions will be available online.





# The new USJA Promotion Guide

**Page two:** Please see "IMPORTANT NOTE" on second page which indicates what level you should be performing at; such as local, regional, national etc a percentage of your activity must be at these levels to meet this requirement.

On Page two **Activity Points** you list the subtotals for activities such as Tournaments, Service to USJA, Certifications. This will come from the detail you attach and the SS if used (recommended).

Make sure you indicate **Grand Total** on this page and list this total on sheet one Current Points

**Page Three:** is the sign off sheet. The number of high Dan and their minimum rank required for the rank you seek is listed on Page one, they along with the head of the club and the applicant sign off on Page three. Only active USJA members meeting all requirements can sign off. Please see the chart on page one for the number and rank as a minimum required to sign off.

If you do not know the required number to sign off or lack their information you may contact the National office and they can assist you finding a certified rank examiner(s). The office will verify all signatures and the eligibility of those who sign.

Please carefully read all notes on the RFP form and insure you meet or exceed the requirements. You must attach detail on the activities you claim and send as a complete package to the USJA Office. If you fail to do so and it is returned you will be charged a new processing fee.

Please see the check off list below and a sample RFP. Remember we want all qualified members that desire promotion to receive this advancement but as anything of value it must have quality. When submitting your package for promotions understand that this is a reflection of who you are and it should be presented with the professionalism you want to reflect.

Those that sign off including the applicant are bound by a duty to protect the integrity of everyone's rank so please do not sign off unless you know all requirements are met

## CHECK LIST

- RFP form complete make sure you have correct form
- Sign off by applicant, Head Coach, examiners having required rank, active membership and BGS required. Include judo rank, examiner-level
- Include any documentation required
- Meets or exceeds TIG or points
- All claimed USJA Certifications up to date and current
- Attached documentation verifying points
- Active USJA membership annual or SLM
- Member of chartered USJA club
- Process fee enclosed as required amount \$
- Photo (Passport type)
- Copy of all certifications such as coaching, referee etc that are not USJA certifications



# The new USJA Promotion Guide

**Before you mail the complete package make a copy because it cannot be returned.** Once it is received by the National Office qualification are verified. Ranks under Yodan are processed by the National Office. Ranks of Yodan and all validations are then electronically forwarded to the Technical Evaluator (TE) of the PB who will verify and evaluate the complete package. The TE also receives the member's complete history and status from the office. The TE may contact certain people for additional information. If it contains all necessary documents and meets other requirements it is transfer to the PB with notes of the evaluation. The PB will review the complete package and consider the applicant.

RFP for ranks Rokudan and under are voted on via email by the PB and if approved the National office is authorized to issue a certificate of advancement.

Ranks of Shichidan and higher require the PB discuss at a sit down meeting usually July and December. Certain higher Dan ranks must also be ratified by the BOD.

If the TE or the promotion board has questions, the RFP lacks documentation or feels the applicant fails to meet the requirements you will be contacted. If you are asked to provide certain information such as detail please do as soon as possible because the date of promotion is the day the PB approves. If you are asked for additional information please return to the National Office a complete package not just the missing info. This will insure you receive proper credit and nothing is missing. If you are asked for additional info and you fail to provide it within 60 days in a complete package you will be charge an additional processing fee. If you are contacted and asked to provide certain information and you fail to do so within 60 days your RFP is considered withdrawn and no longer valid.

The TE often spends considerable time working with the applicant and head of the club. This aids the PB in a positive way considering promotions and speeds approval if they find the applicant meets the requirements. If you are asked to provide additional information or even submit at a later time please do not take personal. If you carefully follow the procedure and attach all information showing you meet or exceed all requirements things should go smoothly.

The USJA Promotion Board and all its members are here to assist. We are available to answer any questions so please contact us or the National Office.

The follow acronyms appear in the Guide and Recommendation for Promotion

(1)6D+(2)7D Indicates how many required and their rank to sign off This case one 6th Dan and two 7th Dan

A, B, C, D, Alphabetical letter assigned to those who achieve or exceed a certain number of points or TIG

Back Dues A fee paid by those who let membership or SLM expire to regain TIG

BB Black Belt

BGS Back Ground Screen Those that submit to back ground check of their criminal history

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CRE Certified Rank Examiner someone meeting requirements to sign off applicants for promotion

D Dan Grade of Black Belt as in first Dan

ED Executive Director of USJA

K Kyu Grade as ranks under black belt

LM Life member

MCRE Master Rank Examiner one level higher than NCRE with higher authority to sign off

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PB Promotion Board

Pts Points as in promotion points numerical value give for activities

RFP Recommendation for Promotion form

SLM Life member sustaining someone paying yearly sustaining fee

TE Technical Evaluator person that evaluates promotion forms

TIG Time in Grade the time that one remains active in judo since their last promotion

YR Year(s)

**Walter Dean 9th Dan**

Vice Chair USJA PB

Jan. 25, 2015

# USJA



## Adult Judo Development at the Karl Geis Dojo in Houston, Texas



At Karl Geis Ryu, we have an atypical club, in that we have a predominantly adult population of Judo students. We believe Judo can be practiced safely as a lifetime pursuit, by following the training model set forth by our revered Sensei, Karl Geis. . We follow a training format which emphasizes perfection of technique, and an understanding of the biomechanics and Physics of Judo. We work slowly and softly, emphasizing the utilization of techniques which require little strength to execute. We are a noncompetitive club, which allows our clientele to play Judo but not have their home life and work compromised by excessive time demands. This, we are defining a purely recreational model. We use a promotional system based on Geis Sensei's experience in Japan. Rank is awarded based on hours spent in training. In order to make Judo more accessible to people of all ages, we work within the Uke centered framework as elucidated by Karl Geis. We utilize off balance generated by Uke, and then use the attacker's energy to throw or pin him. We rely on walking to create off balance, and take advantage of the natural body rise and fall created by walking. We tend to execute most of our throws while retreating, in order to maximally take advantage of the force and body rise and fall created by an attacker aggressing against you. This makes our version of Judo more defensive than competitive, in that we do not initiate an attack.

We have created a Judo curriculum in which we have applied the martial arts principles of Mr Geis to traditional Kodokan techniques in order to further maximize their efficiency while minimizing the force required to execute them. We have done this with grappling and throwing techniques. Our Kihara judo looks different from traditional Judo, but is much better suited to an older weaker population who want to pursue the art as a lifelong recreational activity and art form.

I have mentioned the principles which Mr. Geis created by which we have developed a recreational Judo club for people of all ages. Allow me to further elucidate what the Kihara principles are that shape our art of Judo. We practice our Judo in a safe nurturing noncompetitive environment, using positive reinforcement as the catalyst for our students' growth. The principles of our judo are based upon noncompetitive techniques, utilizing motion and off balance (kuzushi). Strength based techniques and competitive behavior are not welcome in our dojo. Kano's principles of "mutual welfare and benefit" and "minimum effort with maximum efficiency" are our goals in training. We are vigilant with regard to safety. Each student is responsible for his training partner's safety. We train and teach using the principles of the Montessori Method of education.





# Adult Judo Development at the Karl Geis Dojo in Houston, Texas

We use positive teaching methods so students are both emotionally and physically safe in the dojo. Karl Geis' greatest joy was seeing confidence grow within his students. We remain very fair and vigilant against bias, elitism, and arrogance. We have zero tolerance for physical violence occurring off of the mat. We do not use criticism as a teaching tool. We use positive reinforcement as our primary teaching tool. We abide by Tomiki's principle of not using strength in one's techniques. We regress to weakness in our training. We train as if everything is going against us and we need to survive. Mr. Geis and Mr. Tomiki both said there is no such thing as too slow or too soft. If the technique does not work soft and slow, it will not work hard and fast against a larger opponent. Strength is to be used as a last resort in our Judo, since using strength means you are willing to risk winning and losing at that moment. Strength should only be used if your timing is perfect. We use constant motion in our training. Once we start moving, we keep moving. We remain always aware of foot strike timing in the execution of our techniques, and we let our opponent choose the timing of his defeat. We transcend victory and defeat, and train without worrying about winning or losing, which allows one to focus on the principles and not the outcome. We assume our techniques will fail, and move on to the next technique, not imposing a technique on a training partner that is not working just because we want to. We work on developing automatic subconscious response to attack stimuli. We insist that pain will not be a part of our training.

Karl Geis separated our Randori into standing work and ground work. Karl forbid the transitioning from standing work to ground work, since he thought this was a major injury risk while training. During standing Randori, we pair off take turns throwing each other, always working on the move and never stopping when we execute a throw. We do not try to defend against throws. We do not fight to avoid falling, but instead fall properly to avoid injury. This is completely noncompetitive.

We do our grappling within a similar framework. We start our grappling session with one person on his back and another person attacking. We work without reverting to strength, constantly pinning and escaping from each other. Once we have a hold down or pin, we loosen the hold enough for our training partner to escape, which enables us to stay in a state of constant motion. This develops incredible stamina and aerobic capacity. It also prevents people from dominating each other. We encourage our students not to try to fight out of arm bars or chokes, and to tap out quickly this greatly minimizes injury. Working in this manner minimizes risk and maximizes fun for our participants. Training within this framework allows us to maximize the Judo principle of mutual benefit and welfare.







# Youth Judo Tournament



The Stevens Point Judo Club hosted a state Judo tournament Saturday March 7, 2015 at the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point. Thirty-six youth judo competitors from 6 to 16 years of age participated. The event was sanctioned by the United States Judo Association, the national organization for the Stevens Point Judo Club.

There were 6 referees assisting during this event, 1 international referee, 3 national referees and 2 regional referees.



The event was geared for beginners in Judo. Modifications in the rules were made to make competition safer for the young students. The changes were to prohibit arm bars, chokes, and strangles. One favorite technique many youth and seniors like to use is drop seio nage (shoulder throw). This technique also was not allowed during the competition. All of these techniques are geared by age for use during tournaments. In many instances Ippon or one point was called. Ippon is a winning point, the receiver lands largely on their back and the thrower has control, with force, and speed. The match is completed.

Stevens Point Judo winners were: Aileen Winn, 2nd place, girls 65 lb.; Bryton Steward, 3rd place, boys 135 lb.; Aiden Winn, 3rd place, boys 45 lb.; Quinn Thomson, 1st place, boys 63 lb.; Keston Hayakawa, 1st place, boys 70 lb.; and Keegan Chapin, 2nd place, boys 85 lb.



At the Winter USJA/USJF Grass Roots National Judo Tournament at Azusa Pacific University Los Angeles, California, Wisconsin coaches Os Millin and Tom Gustin procured two sections of the National Judo banner and used it to advertise the UW Stevens Point Judo tournament. The USJA emblem was on display during the Stevens Point Youth Tournament. The USJF emblem was given to Wisconsin Judo Coach Matt Carpenter, the only USJF club in the state.

The Stevens Point Judo Club would like to thank everyone who helped make this tournament a success. The day was a very positive learning experience for our young Judo students.

**Tom Gustin**

Stevens Point Judo Club



# Sensei Andor Paposi Jobb



Photo courtesy Sensei Andor Paposi Jobb

Trying to find a way to defend himself from bullies in his neighborhood in Hungary, a little boy made the first step toward one of his passions, Judo. But what would have been of his life without his other passion, the arts. Since then, countless tournaments and paintings have built the personal history of Andor Paposi Jobb.

As any other judoka competing in a tournament, he fits his white gi, tying his red and white striped belt that indicates his 8th Dan degree. His white beard and hair talk about a man practicing Judo during decades. And now a black beret, always covering his head, reinforces who he is; an artist passionate about the "Gentle Way". Walking straight forward from the hall to the tatami with the vitality of a 40 year old man, he shows that is ready for a match.

Sensei Paposi Jobb probably has more trophies and medals than you do. 80 years old and counting; still traveling and competing in international Master Tournaments.

As a 22 year old young adult, Andor, emigrated to the United States. He was already Hungary's Judo National Champion and was starting a career as an artist.

His path in the U.S. was through a Master in Fine Arts and later, as a high school and college professor. Parallel to his education, he continued practicing Judo and found Hun Judo Dojo, a brand that he still runs in Pennsylvania nowadays.

It may be better if you enjoy the story told directly by him. Watch the video about this Judo artist in love with two passions:

YouTube link:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5a6WsSYb\\_fY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5a6WsSYb_fY)  
 Or go to YouTube and add this in the search box:  
 Andor Paposi Jobb a life in Judo, in Arts  
 Or just  
 judo andor





## Membership Incentives

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 highly sought after USJA Judo Technical Manual and Study Guide with Senior Rank Promotion System which sells for \$50 with shipping. The offer will be valid till March 31st of this year.

We have also just approved these additional ongoing membership incentives:

- \$35.00 per year Annual Membership Fee for Active Duty Military and Reservist / Guardsmen on Active Duty for Operational Support
- A Multi-Year Annual Membership Discount of:
  - 2 year 10% off (2nd year \$95) = \$95
  - 3 year 10% off (2nd 15% off 3rd \$137) = \$137
  - 4 year 10% off (2nd 15% off 3rd 20% off 4th) = \$177
- A SLM (Sustaining Life Membership) Multi-Year Discount of:
  - 2 Year \$57
  - 3 Year \$82
  - 4 year \$105

These incentives as well as the Life Membership Special are all effective immediately.

Thank you for your continue support!







# The Need For The Recreational Judoka

The growth of Judo in the US has been stalled for many years with high dropout rates. The question is how do we correct the situation with those that do enter the world of Judo?

At my gym, basketball is a big program from youth to senior. Every lunch hour there are four courts in full use with these recreational athletes playing pickup games. The evening programs are also a time for recreational athletes. During the day and afternoon the elementary and high school kids are playing and practicing. The transition from junior player to high school to college player is natural and so is the movement to the recreational lunch and evening time pickup game player. There are also basketball leagues available for all age groups. The sport can be played for a lifetime. Many of these players were former high school and college players. For these folks basketball is great exercise fostering continued friendships and most importantly, it is FUN!

Why not Judo? The focus needs to be on retention and making it fun. So the question is how do we retain the judokas after high school and college and encourage them to become recreational players for life?

Kano Shihan recognized that there are three aspects of Judo and each aspect has its own state of importance as the judoka ages and grows. The first was recognizing the need to practice and become skillful in defense against attack, the second, to also perfect the mind and body and the third, to use energy in an optimal manner (seiryoku zenyo). The Judoka is also taught to understand the essence of mutual benefit and welfare (Jita Kyoei). Kano Shihan believed that from this comes the spirit of honor, faith and loyalty. The moral code of the Judoka binds us together and builds friendships and long term relationships. It is necessary to perpetuate the need to pass on the skills as well as the message of Jita Kyoei. The more we practice and learn and relate to each other the more we will stay on the mat. Judo relationships and friendships will remain strong throughout life everywhere Judo is practiced. We all pass through life's stages, from youth to old age, from actively competing to being involved in Judo as a recreational sport where learning and friendships can continue through regular practice while providing support and guidance to younger judokas. We need to create the joy of the Judo community.



Senseis (recreational players) teaching children at Gardena Judo Club.

Photo by Ray Matsumoto



# The Need For The Recreational Judoka



Recreational players teaching and securing the future of Judo at Gardena Judo Club.

Photo by Ray Matsumoto

These recreational judokas need to be cultivated, utilized and respected. The growth of US Judo is dependent on acquiring new students and on keeping recreational judokas on the mat practicing and competing, teaching, refereeing, coaching, running shiais and contributing to the development of Judo. By having this continuous path available we will guarantee that the dropout rate will decline and our numbers will increase. Judo will become an essential part of one's joy in life and the knowledge acquired will always be passed on.



Some recreational players who are contributing to building US Judo. Frank Morales, IJF-A, 7th Dan, Hayward Nishioka, IJF-A, 8th Dan, Low Dong, PJC, 6th Dan, Tosh Seino, 7th Dan, Mel Appelbaum, IJF-A, 8th Dan, Hal Sharp, 9th Dan, Tom Seabasty, IJF-A, 7th Dan.

Photo taken at the 2014 Gardena Judo Club Xmas Party.



Mel Appelbaum (recreational Player) teaching turnovers at Gardena Judo Club.  
photo by Ray Matsumoto

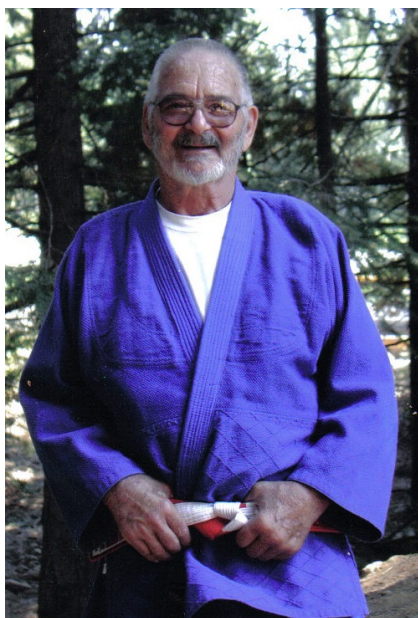
by Mel Appelbaum, NYAC Judo





# Sensei Charlie Robinson

February 2015



Charlie grew up in a small community in Southern California that was 25% Japanese, thus affording him exposure to martial art. In 1940, at the age of 10, he began studying jujitsu techniques from a Japanese neighbor, Mr. Nakagawa. He studied with him for 1 ½ years. It wasn't until he was stationed at Travis Air Force Base in the 1950s that he returned to the martial arts, studying judo and goshin jitsu with Sensei Walter Todd and Sensei George Harris as his teachers and mentors. He began competing shortly afterward.

A judo club was started at Beal AFB in the 1960s and Sensei Robinson instructed 23 competitors who placed in the top 3 places in military and national competition. Charlie was the National 175 lb. Champion in 1975 and the 78kg Masters champion in 1989. Charlie maintained a judo school from 1960 until a few years ago, and also taught at the Yuba Community College.

His dojo, Twin Cities Judo, in Yuba City, California, was a judo Mecca that many judoka traveled to in order to learn from Charlie. His techniques were simple and elegant, harkening back to Sensei Mifune's effortless style of judo. He encouraged judoka to learn from him, but to make the techniques their own, telling them, "Do it exactly similar to what I just showed

you." He loved to share, and was a fixture at Camp Bushido at Colorado Springs, and also started his own camp, Camp Bushido West, in near Yosemite National Park where he spread the judo gospel for almost 30 years.

Charlie's great love was his family. His wife of over 50 years, Shirley, was the apple of his eye. His two sons, Greg and Michael, were both accomplished judokas and competitors. He cared for his family in his simple manner, and taught them the great lessons he carried in his heart. Honor, respect, self-confidence, commitment, perseverance, integrity in all things, best effort, and dignity of all people.

Charlie traveled throughout the United States sharing his special brand of judo, making the complex simple and the simple, complex. Asking why you took two steps when you could take one. He never traveled by plane; either driving, taking a train or bus the countless thousands of miles over his lifetime to teach at far away location. He never asked for any money, usually coming out of his own pocket.

One of Charlie's favorite stories was telling how he viewed his opponent in a judo tournament. He would say, "they made two mistakes; they showed up, and then drew me." It was all in good humor as Charlie had the greatest respect for everyone. If you stepped on the wrong side of the "what is right" line, he was not shy in voicing his opinion, but was the first in line to help remedy any difficult situation. Charlie always said, "It is not difficult to know what the right thing is to do."

Sensei Charlie achieved the rank of hachidan, eighth degree black belt which is a very high level often defined as an ambassador of judo. This also takes into consideration that he remained a sandan, third degree black belt for 27 years, never asking for promotion. He proudly served on numerous boards and committees in his beloved United States Judo Association (USJA) where he was in charge of the rank examiner program for 3 decades. His service to the judo world is unparalleled. Often eschewing personal notoriety he was the one who simply got the work done.



## Sensei Charlie Robinson

There are too many black belts to name throughout the United States that were promoted to black belt, and higher ranks by Charlie. One comment he made to a student who was questioning his own proficiency was, "Here are the keys to the belt. Learn to drive it," meaning he was confident in the student's ability to gain the confidence and move forward to learn more. Ever the mentor and lifelong supporter, the list of students who owe much of their judo knowledge and advancement to Charlie will go forward knowing they had one of the greatest teachers and guides anyone could ask for.

In his later years, Charlie still gave his best. Towards the end of his life, at one tournament in Sacramento with Gary Goltz, President of the USJA and one of Sensei Goltz' students, a former marine and community firefighter, Charlie, sitting in his wheeled walker, taught the student a move. The student stepped out onto the mat for his first match, bowed, and then performed the exact technique he had just learned on his opponent and throwing him in less than 30 seconds for an ippon. Walking back to his line the student looked to Charlie, and made a quiet simple bow to acknowledge him. Charlie just smiled.

When Charlie has passed, and his sons wanted to know how many people would be coming, they were worried that it might be only a few as many of Charlie's longtime friend had passed away too. Asking if there might be around 20 judoka to attend, one of Charlie's longtime students, answered, "I think you will need the big room" Coming from far and wide, the large chapel seating hundreds was full. Most in attendance were in the twenties or thirties. This is a testament to a life that continued to be lived well, giving from the heart, to the passion and loved that had been his life's calling. Judo.

Charlie trained and studied with so many incredible judoka. Olympians such as Jim Bregman, the aforementioned George Harris, Ben Nighthorse Campbell, AnnMaria DeMars Rousey, Ronda Rousey. His Sensei in Japan was Sumiyuki Kotani, a student of the founder of judo, Jigoro Kano and his top student Kazuo Mifune, both 10th degree black belts of the world famous and headquarters of world judo, the Kodokan.

In the USJA manual, in one of the front pages, there was picture of Charlie Robinson. The captioned said, "One of the most beloved sensei." Charlie was respected, admired, honored, and revered by most that he met... and yes, he was dearly loved. The life and times of Charles Robinson can be used as a guide star, a moral compass, and a great example of the maxims of judo; maxim efficiency and mutual benefit and welfare.

At the conclusion of his memorial service last month the attendees joined in to sing Mr. Sandan, a song written by Charlie, (to the tune of Mr. Sandman)...

*Mr. Sandan teach me a throw  
Pick up my body and then let it go  
Show me the way through nage no kata  
Hit me with your uchimata  
Mr. Sandan just one more time  
Hiza guruma would be mighty fine  
So grab my sleeve for sei-o-e  
Mr. Sandan sock it to me!*

by Hans Ingebretsen & Joa Schwinn



# Real Judo



The two judoka bowed onto the mat. From their determined look it was obvious that this battle was serious. Onlookers hushed and tensed as the competitors bowed to the referee and each other, then waited for the referee's signal.

"Hajime!" cried the referee, and without hesitation the two lunged at each other attempting a grip advantage. It quickly became apparent that they were evenly matched and neither could gain the better grip. The match became more dance than fight.



Suddenly the referee hollered, "Matte" and grabbing each fighter by his collar, lifted them. He swung them around back to back, put them down, and sang, "You put your right foot in, you put your right foot out, and you shake it all about!" The two 7-year-old competitors giggled and did as the song directed. The crowd laughed.

The referee restarted the match. This time there was an obvious difference between the competitors. Now they were having fun playing judo. The fight was no less technical, nor was there less effort on the part of the participants, but the tension was gone.

After four or five matches, awards were presented: ten medals for ten players.

Almost as one the crowd leaned forward with camera phones to capture delighted faces of family members receiving recognition of their first judo win. The referee, a large dark man with solid, economical movements, completed arrangements for the next set of matches and turned the mat over to a new referee.

When Rubin Martin hosts his annual Beginners Tournament, half his floor is covered with mats and the other half with chairs. Spectators always outnumber competitors at this event where everyone receives a medal. There is much in-house joking: "Why does the chicken cross the road?" shouts Martin Sensei. "To get to the other side!" respond his giggling students.

Martin's intensity while coaching borders on dangerous. He concentrates on helping his students do their best and have the best possible learning experience. If someone saw him only in that role, he would appear unfriendly and unapproachable. However he exposes his true personality at his Beginners Tournaments.

Martin Sensei enjoys his judo and sharing that joy. He doesn't take judo or teaching lightly, but his sense of humor and affection for judo reflect what judo is all about.

If we cannot laugh at ourselves, play judo, and respect the sport, we have nothing. Martin Sensei has it all and has brought it to his Burleson, Texas, dojo.

## E. E. Carol's Bio



E. E. Carol, former Police Olympics silver medalist, has practiced martial arts for 40 years, including over 30 years under Vince Tamura. Carol Sensei teaches at his Ichi Ni San Judo and Jujitsu Club in Kemp, Texas, where he is terrorized by seven-year-olds. He holds yodan judo and sandan jujitsu ranks.



## The Obi

Any time I walk into a Martial Arts school, a Martial Arts event, or just merely look at someone in a Gi the first thing I personally look at is their Obi or belt. The knot and their belt screams out to me if they are properly trained in Reishiki or proper Dojo Etiquette. I relate this in direct correlation with their teachers training and respect for him/herself or their rank. The Obi is in my opinion the most disrespectful element of importance in Martial Training today. It has always been one of my pet peeves.

The way the obi is tied tells a million stories to someone in the know. An improper knot to me is like a man wearing a \$1,000 suit and cannot make a proper Windsor knot is his tie. It is like a battle tested general in the armed forces wearing his medals or rank insignia upside down. Your Obi is your rank. It substantiates who you are and where you have been. It holds your credibility. It shows your character. It should be treated with much respect. It is the equivalent, in my opinion as your diploma from a prestigious college to be proudly displayed on your wall. Of course you would not hang your Doctorate, Masters, or Bachelors degree from an accredited college, in an improper place such as your toilet, or hang it on a wall for all to see, upside down.

If you ask many Martial Instructors wearing beautifully adorned obis, where their belt system came from or who created their belt rank system, you will find 99% of them DO NOT know or even have a clue. I have a proper knot. Anyone I train will have a proper knot. I can proudly say this because I am a Judoka. The Father of the Kodokan System and founder of Judo created the ranking system to judge the progress of his students. Way back, when specific documentation was not kept, Kano Sensei devised a method to track his students progress by a method of looking at a sash that was specifically tied in a uniform knot around their Gi. The Gi was said to be Kimono or the thick underwear to the Samurai Warrior who wore it under their body armor while in battle. The specific name for this knot is called the flat reef or double square knot. The importance of creating this knot was to be able to keep it flat and as tight as possible. This information can be found in books written by Kano Sensei and translated at a later date into English. The Gi, (Keikogi) was eventually created by Kano Sensei around 1907 and used by Judoka today.

Much of what I will explain has been passed down to me by old time Judo Senseis as well as factual, found in Judo books. Some of what I have learned about rank can be fables or tales or word of mouth. Much of it can be substantiated and even has become apart of Reishiki in many old time Dojos. The basic overall Judo ranking system was created and can be followed today. When a new student came into Dojo to train under Kano Sensei, he was asked to tie a white sash around his waist. He was told not to wash it, never to let it touch the ground, except on tatami while training. Each Judoka was to hold and keep his rank close to his heart. In addition, Kano Sensei made all of the Gis be tied with the left side closing over the right side. Samurai always fought and trained right handed. Samurai as an overall rule carried three bladed weapons; the Wakizashi for long range fighting on a horse, the Katana for fighting while standing, and the Tanto for fighting in close. There were other variation of this weaponry as well. The idea to fold the left side of the Gi over the right was due to the fact, that the Samurai could use his right hand to reach in and draw his Tanto quickly with easy access. You will find that hardly anyone knows these facts.

The new Judoka wore his white sash proudly. As time passed and in training, the dirt and sweat would make the belt tarnish in color turning it to a light shade within the family of yellow. As a little more time passed the dirt darkened further and the belt became a shade of green. With more time and arduous training, the belt began to change a shade of brown. Eventually over years of time and progress the belt we know as the Obi finally turned to Black. Thus we have the birth of the Black Belt. A wearer of the Black Belt could not lie, in that only time and very hard training could allow him to wear his Black Belt. The more you trained, the harder you trained the darker the belt would become. When one wears the Black Belt for fifty years or more of uninterrupted training, the Obi will become once again gray in color and then back to white. This will show the world you have come full circle in your Judo training. Very few can wear Black Obi that is reborn into white again because the element of time will surely out do the belt wearer.





# The Obi

Kano Sensei, being so proud of his ranking system shared it with his dear friend Gichin Funikoshi.; the founding father of Shotokan Karate-do. Funikoshi Sensei was so impressed with Jigoro Kano's Rank System that he adopted it into his training methods and had his students wore Obis in his Dojo. As Shotokan Karate began to spread to Europe, the Europeans tried to emulate this ranking system but also added additional colored belts into their systems of training such as yellow, orange, blue or purple. Eventually Judo and Karate began to enter America and the multi-colors of belts took hold. It is sad to say, Americans have taken the colored belt ranking system, added new colors and found ways to add stripes, " bells and whistles" to create marketing schemes, and exorbitant fees to line the pockets of school owners. By doing this, they have created students that are merely paper tigers that couldn't stand seconds with an accomplished Judoka without being planted into the tatami.

As Judo became more recognized, and more Black Belts were made, ten degrees were added to the Black Belt rank. As time wore on the Red-White Belt was added at Rokudan or 6th Degree level. At 9th and 10th Grade Level a solid Red belt is worn. Today, a kyu level of ranking, called Mudansha or under Black Belt level is recognized and Yudansha for Black Belt and above. I did not get into all of the particulars and times of changes on the Judo Ranking System, but rather am just giving an overall understanding of where the Belt Rank System came from. It was the founder of Judo, Jigoro Kano that set the path that most Martial Systems recognize today.

My Obi and Gi are the most precious things I own in Dojo. I practice never to let it hit the ground as was told, and never wash away my knowledge. I maintain my own private ceremony when putting on my Obi or taking it off. I properly fold it and place it in my bag before removing my Gi. I put on my Gi before class and belt goes on last. I will not step on a tatami without my Obi tied properly around my waist. This is my Reishiki or proper Judo Protocol. I will maintain this until I die. My students must carry this on.

My original Judo Instructor, Jack Krystek told me one day as I was petrified to fight in Shiai because I was outranked severely by other Judoka in my division. He told me something that I will never forget and pass on to many....."Never be afraid of the color of the belt that one wears around his waist. Be afraid of the Judoka that has the white frayed Gi or frayed Obi tied properly around his waist, for this is the Judoka that has put in his time on the mat and is the one to fear....."

## Louis A. Balestrieri's Bio



LOUIS A. BALESTRIERI from Brooklyn, New York was a retired police detective from the New York City Police Department and a member of the NYPD Honor Legion, decorated (23) times for acts involving grave personal risk while in the line of duty. He is a Black Belt in Judo and ranked in Tang Soo Do / Moo Duk Kwan Tae Kwon Do. He is the founder of Ultimate Warrior Training System and Montgomery Judo Academy, Montgomery Alabama.





# Plan for Success

Plan your dive and dive you plan! That's a popular mantra in the world of scuba diving. Basically it means that before you enter the water you should have taken the time to plan things out in order to have a safe and enjoyable experience. In this first article in my role as Chairman of the Professional Judo Committee that is going to be my advice to you if you are considering becoming a full-time/professional Judo instructor: If you want your school to be successful you must PLAN properly.

I talk to a lot of people who ask a lot of questions about my school. Usually they've seen pictures on Facebook or heard from someone they know that I am having good success at building a large, profitable martial arts school with a strong Judo program. In most cases people want to know how I did it. "What's your secret?" they'll ask. I wish that there was one single, magical tip or trick that I could share with them and with you that would help everyone to grow their school but unfortunately there just isn't. The truth is that it takes a lot of hard work, planning, discipline, and determination. But all the hard work in the world won't amount to much if you don't have a plan, and the first place to start making your plan is by sitting down and spending some time deciding just exactly **what type of school you want to run.**

On the surface this seems like an easy question, right? Your answer might be "I want to run a Judo school!" but I'm afraid that's just not a good enough answer. You need to ask yourself some difficult questions. Questions like:

What will the main focus of my school be?

What goals, both short and long-term, do I hope to accomplish?

How much money does my school need to make in order for me to reach my financial goals?

How much will I charge for classes?

What classes will I offer? Will it just be Judo or will I offer other arts?

What ages will I accept?

Will I utilize contracts?

Will I utilize EFT's?

It's crucially important that you are 100% honest with yourself when considering the answers to these questions. You have to begin to establish an outline or vision for what you want your school to be like. This doesn't mean that you can't make changes along the way, but you do need a solid plan of attack before you get started so that you can put the right systems and resources in place. Moving forward in any other way would be like jumping off of a dive boat into deep water without the correct equipment. It's just not a good idea.

The first question that I listed above is perhaps one of the most important. "What will the main focus of my school be?" Again, it's not enough to just say that you want to teach Judo. You need to understand your potential customer base. What are THEY looking for? What drives THEM to call, email, or walk into your school? In Sales this is referred to as "Qualifying the Customer" and it is a crucial part of the sales process.



## Plan for Success

Many years ago we began using a multi-page, detailed health questionnaire for all new students. This questionnaire includes a 3 question survey on the very last page. The survey asks, among other things, **“What is your reason for looking into martial arts training?”** My wife and I always look at the answer to this question because this is very valuable information. It’s important to know what it is that has motivated this person to look into training for themselves or for their child. After almost a decade of using this questionnaire I can tell you that **NOT ONE SINGLE TIME** has an adult student or a parent of a child student ever said anything about winning medals, becoming a national champion, or becoming an Olympian. So what kinds of answers do we get? I’ll elaborate:

More often than not we get answers like these:

I want to get in shape/lose weight.

I want to learn to defend myself.

I want my son/daughter to learn to defend themselves.

My son/daughter is being picked on/bullied at school.

I want my son/daughter to learn discipline/confidence/self-control.

My son/daughter needs to do more physical activity/they spend too much time watching TV/playing video games.

These are the answers we get. These are the things that people are looking for when they come into our schools. If you want to be successful as a professional martial arts instructor you need to identify your customer base and what they want. If you aren’t offering a product that satisfies their needs then they will almost certainly look elsewhere to find it. Many Judo instructors that I meet and talk to SAY that they know this. They SAY that they are offering the answers to these needs yet they still don’t have more than a handful of students. Quite simply if that’s the case then there is something wrong with the product that you are offering OR more than likely with the WAY that you are offering it.

Most Judo schools that I visit have a very tournament oriented way of teaching. Everything about the classes is built around Judo competition. The warmups are ran like everyone on the mat wants to be an elite competitor. The techniques are almost always taught in a competition oriented manner. The randori is almost always long and hard and done at a high intensity. Is this approach working for American Judo? Our abysmal number of active Judoka in this country say that it is not. Some people will read this article and their answer will be to say “Americans today are just too lazy and too weak to handle Judo training” There may be some very small amount of truth to that but in general I disagree. I say that Judo instructors have generally not done a good enough job of evolving to meet the needs of the current population of potential students.

I am most definitely NOT anti-competition. I have competed at every rank along the way in my Judo career and continue to compete even now. My adult students attend between 3 and 6 tournaments per year. My kids compete 2-3 times per year. The big difference is that my programs are not built solely on Judo competition. When used correctly competition can be a powerful tool to help some people gain strength and confidence. However, when used incorrectly competition can cost you a LOT of students. Again, you need to ask yourself what are your goals? What is your main focus? In my opinion if you are still very much interested in becoming an elite level competitor or in producing other elite level competitors then you should probably not pursue Judo as your income generating occupation. I’m not saying that it’s impossible to focus on both things, but I am saying that it will be VERY difficult. In my experience the



## Plan for Success

vast majority of people who are looking for martial arts training are not looking into it for competition purposes. They are looking for self-defense, physical fitness, confidence, and fun. Assuming that everyone who walks through your doors has the desire to be a hard-core competitor is a big mistake and will lead to low sign-ups and low retention. Take the time to qualify your potential customers either on the phone if they call you or in person when they come to visit your school for the first time.

Sit down, do some thinking. Some soul searching. Really think about what you want to accomplish as a school owner. In the coming months I and the other members of the Professional Judo Committee will be contributing articles like this one to Growing Judo. We will also be uploading content to the USJA website and hopefully video content to a YouTube channel for USJA members to access. It is our hope that we will be able to help those of you who aspire to being successful, professional instructors achieve that goal.

The multi-page release form with survey that I mentioned in this article will be made available on the USJA website ASAP. Please feel free to take it, modify it, and put it to good use if you don't already have one that you are happy with.

Until next time!

### James Wall

Wall to Wall Martial Arts  
Chairman – USJA Professional Judo Committee  
wallmartialarts.com  
wallmartialarts@att.net

A large, light gray watermark of the USJA logo is centered in the background of the page. It features the same shield emblem with two children and the text "GROWING JUDO" and "USJA".

# USJA





# Judo News from Around the Country

## Developmentally Disabled Scrimmage





# Judo News from Around the Country



Arthur Ghukasyan of Kenam's Judo in Glendale California, a USJA Club receives a President's Award for his outstanding competitive record having won gold medals at the 2014 Summer Nationals in Honolulu, the Winter Nationals in Los Angeles, the National President Cup in Dallas, and most recently the Pan-American Open Cup in Fort Lauderdale. He is pictured with his Sensei and father Aram Ghukasyan along with Gary Goltz, USJA President.

# USJA





# Yuuki no Shiai



## Yuuki no Shiai “Contest of Courage”

Judo Scrimmage for Developmentally Disabled  
Judoka

Saturday, February 21, 2015

Riverside Youth Judo Club

10530 Magnolia Avenue, Riverside CA 92505



On Saturday, February 21, the Riverside Youth Judo Club, P.A.L. held its First Annual “Yuuki no Shiai” (Contest of Courage). The Judo scrimmage was put together, specifically for our Developmentally Disabled Judoka. We had 20 competitors who are overcoming disabilities such as Autism Spectrum Disorder, Intellectual Disability Disorder, Cerebral Palsy, and Downs Syndrome.

The Riverside Youth Judo Club has over 140 students and we are the 3rd largest chartered USJA club in the Nation. We have 23 Special Developing students, which (I believe) is more than any other Judo club anywhere in the world. Take a moment and go through this slide show of some of the pics from the day --- see why these kids are such a big part of our Judo Club and our hearts.

Special Thanks to Chief Diaz and the Police Foundation, The City of Riverside, Rose (Mom) and Steve Lane and the RPOA, Councilman Jim Perry and Diana Medina, Assemblyman Medina, USJA President Gary Goltz and all our Elite Judo Referees!, RPD CSB, Riverside Fire Department, Chaplain Ross, Grandpa Joe Bonaminio, Vicky Medina, Pedro Villa (our BCBA), Ricardo Solis (Photos!), Jimmy Simons (Our Chef!) and ALL others who helped make this a very special event!



## Yuuki no Shiai





## Yuuki no Shiai







# Yuuki no Shiai



Riverside Youth Judo Club



Riverside Youth Judo Club



Riverside Youth Judo Club



Riverside Youth Judo Club



# Alex learns about Nokido

Nokido Ju-Jitsu, Judo and BJJ

#941-258-5652 & #941-228-902

1050 Innovation Ave. B109, North Port, FL 34287

www.nokido.net \ Budobug@gmail.com



## 1. What kind of person would benefit from training at your dojo?

We have students ages 3 and up, (your never too old).

## 2. Are you a competitive club?

Our focus is on self defense first, competition second. We have a great competition team.

## 3. How many hours a week do you have class?

We are open Monday - Friday 4-8:30.

## 4. Do you have another class besides judo?

We teach Japanese Nokido Ju-Jitsu, Judo and Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu.

## 5. What do you specialize in?

We specialize in all three, although our Ne-waza is great.

## 6. If some one wanted to come and visit your club how much would the mat fee be?

A donation to our competitor fund.

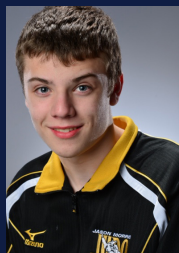
## 7. Do the members socialize outside of the dojo?

We are one huge family!

## 8. Tell me about your club culture.

Our mission statement is "Real world self defense in a safe and fun family environment".

## Alex Hall's Bio



My name is Alex Hall. I am 16 years old brown belt. I am in 10th grade. My goal is to make the 2024 Olympic team . I started judo 6 years ago at the age of 9. After my dreams of becoming an Olympian I would like to be a veterinarian and go to West Point or the Naval Academy.





# Girl Power

## Get In The Game Provides Girls With Confidence And Fun

A deafening roar sounded from the mouths of more than 125 girls at the start of Saturday morning's Get in the Game event at Jamestown Community College.

"Who can be loudest?" asked Rae Lynn DeAngelo, co-chair of Get In The Game Jamestown. "The newbies or the girls who have been here before?"

As the Jamestown Community College gymnasium echoed with their yells, DeAngelo decided that the new girls had won the contest.



**Pictured is a group of girls watching a Judo demonstration before digging in themselves.**

"Today is all about getting you interested in sports," she said "We hope you will really participate and enjoy the day."

Get In The Game is a one-day program sponsored by the American Association of University Women dedicated to motivating and encouraging girls from fourth-grade to seventh-grade to be active in sports. Gathering together from 8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m., the girls were given the chance to try out a plethora of sports throughout the day, including rugby, zumba, basketball, track, kayaking, Judo and soccer. In its 16th year, the event is a local celebration of National Girls and Women in Sports day, Feb. 4 and entails a day full of active fun to the area's young ladies.

During the opening remarks, Paul Kahanic, Judo instructor, was given a chance to address the crowd, prior to a special Judo ceremony.

"Judo is not just for guys," Kahanic said, adding that the only U.S. gold medal for Judo was won by a woman. "All of these sports today are showing you that you can do anything, you just have to try at it and be fierce. Whatever you choose to do, love it because it will be with you the rest of your life."

Afterward, the audience was given the opportunity to witness the promotion of two Judo team members, Jim Foley and David Webster, who received black belts.

"Black belts are not easy to get," Kahanic said. "They take years to achieve."



# Girl Power



The girls were then split into groups, each heading off to participate in exciting sports activities. Many girls were exposed to sports they had never encountered before, said Wendy Present, co-chair of Get In The Game Jamestown.

Present added that the entire day wouldn't be possible without all the help they have received.

"We couldn't do it without Aimee Brunelle, Kathy Steadman, our volunteers and all the organizations who help out," Present said, adding that it provides a lasting experience and important opportunity for areas girls. "I have an employee in my office that was a student here at JCC, and now she is a permanent employee here. She participated in this. That is how long we have been doing this."



Aimee Brunelle, athletic trainer for JCC, has played an active role throughout the history of the event.

"About 10 years ago, I ended up being part of the planning committee," Brunelle said. "We all work together well because we all have our own little tasks."

During a break for lunch, Janet Forbes, program co-vice-president for the Jamestown branch of the American Association of University Women, recognized Present and DeAngelo for their 16 years of service and leadership of Get In The Game Jamestown with a gift.

"We just want to appreciate them because so rarely do people maintain leadership for that length of time," Forbes said.

"It really wasn't just Wendy and me. We've had a lot of help. JCC has been instrumental," DeAngelo said. "To all the volunteers and student helpers, we really appreciate you."

After the recognition, the Babes Of Wrath showed off their roller derby skills for the crowd.

Chautauqua County's roller derby team returned this year to tell the girls a bit about the sport, how it has impacted their lives and showed them a few moves.

"I started doing derby five years ago and it has transformed my life," said Mary Hetrick, whose derby name is "Susan B. Amputee," a roller derby player. "Roller derby really effects self confidence and takes a lot of athleticism."

Hetrick explained that the sport began in the 1970s as a type of entertainment, but has changed into an engaging and fast-growing sport.

"We wear helmets, knee and elbow pads and usually mouth-guards," she said. "The women who do roller derby are tough, but when they first start out, they aren't athletes. "





## Girl Power

The Babes of Wrath then performed a few demonstrations.

"As you can see, roller derby is a sport that requires a lot of communication and teamwork you have to form a unit," Hetrick told the girls, adding that the sport was generally just for women but in recent years, men's' teams have begun forming. She said that roller derby was an important part of her life and had a positive impact on all involved. "Here, you can have access to a whole new community of women."

For more information on Get In The Game Jamestown, visit their page on Facebook, or visit the AAUW website: [www.jamestown-ny.aauw.net](http://www.jamestown-ny.aauw.net)

For more information on the Babes of Wrath, visit their website: [babesofwrath.com](http://babesofwrath.com) or their Facebook page under Chautauqua County Roller Derby.







# Memorial



## Charlie Robinson

Charlie Robinson was one of the greatest supporters of the USJA we ever had. For decades he taught judo our summer camps where he became beloved Sensei to judoka from all parts of the country. He taught us gentle, simple and effective techniques. Charlie loved to travel but always by train or by car. For Air Force vet, I always figured he knew something which scared me. He had terrific sense of humor too. Often singing to me that catchy refrain "have you ever seen a Jew jitsu? Well I have!"

He live a great life in spite of many obstacles literally illustrating Mifune's favorite saying "fall down 7 times, get up 8".



All of our lives have been enriched by him and for that I ask that you please join me in a singing Mr. Sandan written by Charlie years ago to the tune of Mr. Sandman.

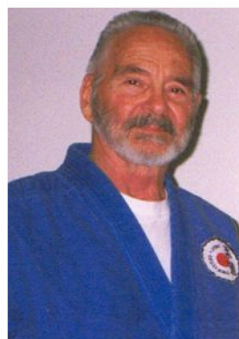
"Mr. Sandan teach me a throw, pick up my body and then let it go.

Show me the way through the nage no kata, hit me with your uchimata.

Mr. Sandan just one more time, hiza guruma would be mighty fine.

So grab my sleeve for sei-o-ee, Mr. Sandan sock to me!"

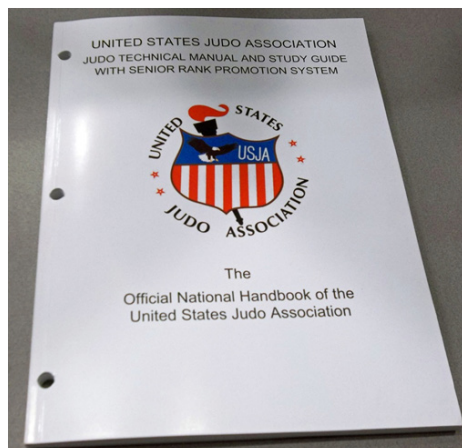
Thanks Charlie and let's bow to our Sensei one more time...REI!







# Update on The new USJA Judo Technical Manual and Study Guide with Senior Rank Promotion System



The revised promotion system will become permanent on April 1, 2015 and until that time; the current system will still be accepted. After April 1, 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.

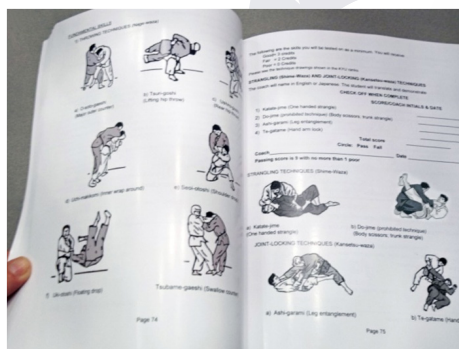
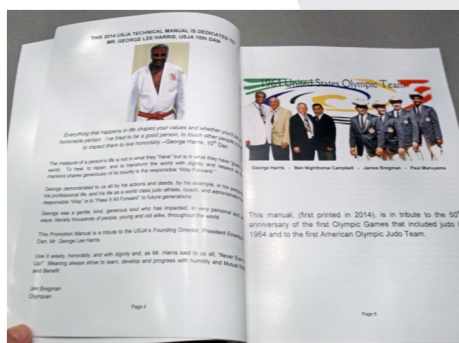
Certified Rank Examiners (CRE) of all levels will be expected to obtain a copy of the new Guide and familiarize themselves with every aspect. Each Certified Rank Examiner will then asked to update their certification with the purchase the manual. The re-certification process will be addressed in detail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

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

The \$250 Life Membership Special is still going on till the end of March. It includes a copy of the new Senior Rank Promotion System.

## Key Links to New USJA Forms:

- Request for Kyu Ranks Promotion Form (RFP-1)
- Request for Dan Ranks Promotion Form (RFP-2)
- Request for Rank Validation Form (RFV)
- Certified Rank Examiner Application Form (CRE)
- Membership Application Form



# USJA



## Reactions

I attended the 2008 Dallas Judo Invitational. The word was that there was a \$1,000.00 prize for first place winners in each senior division. I'm not too sure that I like the idea of money as a prize.

I took four new judoka, teenage boys, to motivate them to work hard. The senior competitors were fast, strong, and agile. Matches were hard fought and close. One player, a Japanese, employed traditional techniques. Another was a Canadian who used to train at the Tamura Judo Institute.

The Canadian used ankle picks and innovative techniques modified from amateur or college "catch as catch can" wrestling. One referee didn't appreciate his style and made it obvious by his calls. Even my boys noticed. Though the Canadian had won a bronze medal in the World Games, he didn't do well in this tournament.

The Japanese judoka used standard judo techniques right out of the book. He was never on the mat longer than 30 seconds, winning all matches by Ippon.

The competitors whom we watched were athletic, strong, agile, innovative, and very fast. I was impressed and pleased.

Then it occurred to me that I had brought these boys to encourage them to study judo and to work hard at practices. I didn't intend to frighten them off with high-level judo. In my best competitive days I wouldn't have lasted 30 seconds with any of the judoka we were watching.

So I asked the boys what they thought. Three drooled, "When can we do this?" They were ready. The fourth looked pained and remarked that jujitsu interested him more. But he enjoyed watching and wanted to know when the next tournament was.

The boys also wanted to know if I knew everyone. I informed them that I'd played judo in one form or another for 40 years in this area, which was bound to expose me to a few folks. Then they really got to me by asking why everyone liked me. Now what can you say to that?

Can we ask more from our students? I look forward to seeing these guys in the 2009 Dallas Judo Invitational. Well, at least three of them.

### E. E. Carol's Bio



E. E. Carol, former Police Olympics silver medalist, has practiced martial arts for 40 years, including over 30 years under Vince Tamura. Carol Sensei teaches at his Ichi Ni San Judo and Jujitsu Club in Kemp, Texas, where he is terrorized by seven-year-olds. He holds yodan judo and sandan jujitsu ranks.



# USJA Promotions



Congratulations to the following individuals on their achievements:

## JUDO

### Hachidan

★ Joseph Kajita

### Rokudan

★ Raymond A Conte

### Godan

★ Earl DelValle

### Sandan

★ Paul J Kahanic

★ Douglas Moore

★ Jamie Gambetta

### Nidan

★ Gant A Grimes

★ Charles Dos Anjos

### Sandan

★ Phil Horrell

★ James J Foley

★ Ismene A Papayianis

★ Dara Baf

★ David E Webster

★ Marshall Maor

★ Brian Sell

★ James Wesley Franks

★ Daniel I Dillon



# USJA Promotions



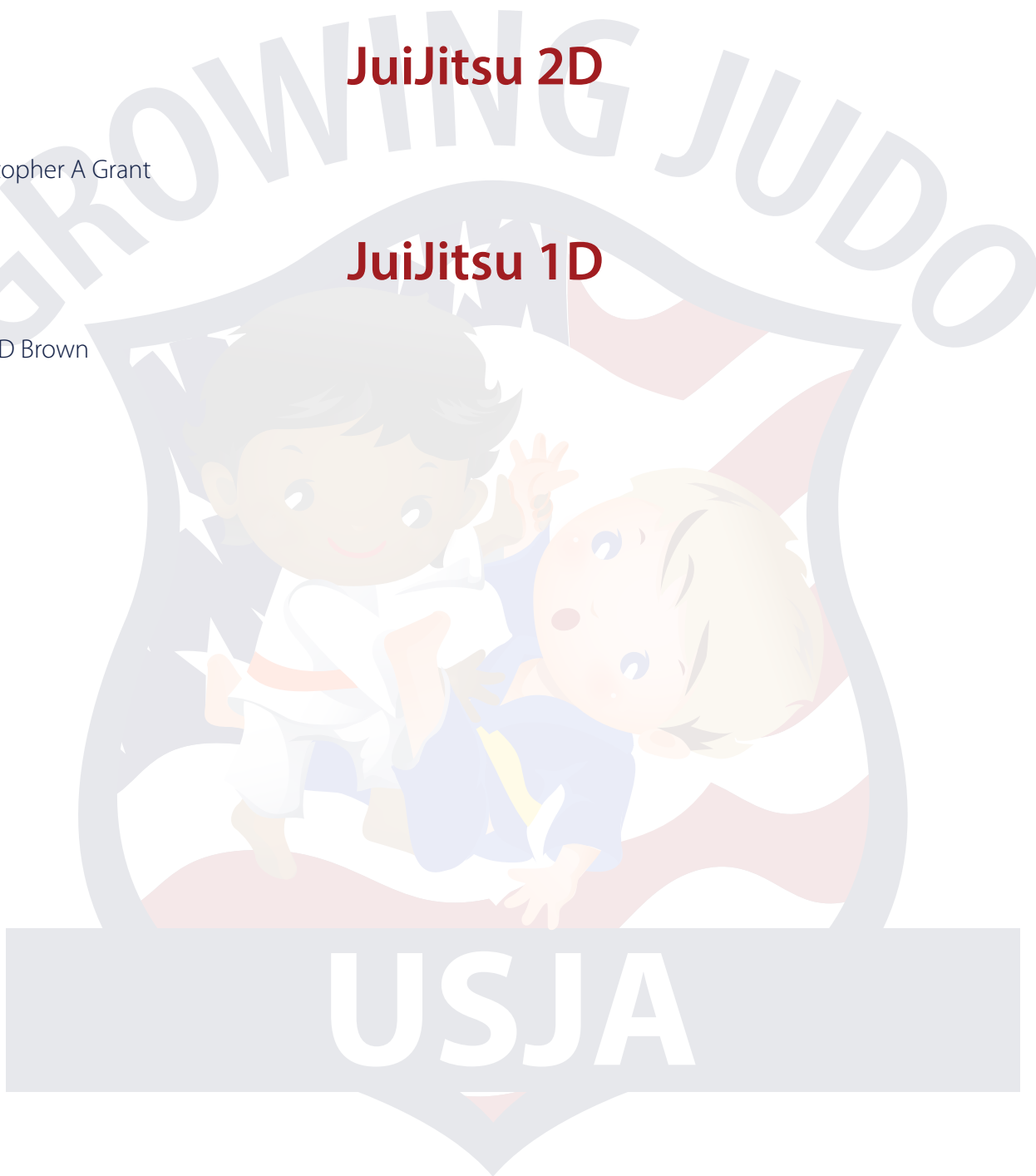
Congratulations to the following individuals on their achievements:

## JuiJitsu 2D

★ Christopher A Grant

## JuiJitsu 1D

★ John D Brown







# USJA New Certified Rank Examiner (CRE) Program

Walter Dean, 9th Dan, Vice Chairman, Promotion Board

Upgrade to Advance CRE

Revised March 1, 2015

All current CREs must upgrade to Advance to continue as a CRE

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 the 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 April 1, 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 the 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 their 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 April 1, 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.



# USJA New Certified Rank Examiner (CRE) Program

## 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.*

*There's a special 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. You must place your order for the new Guide by April 1, 2015 even if not received by then you will be considered to have started the process to upgrade to advance.*

***Once you receive your new Guide you have 30 days to upgrade to Advance CRE and be "grandfathered" in at your equivalent level. If you fail to do this you will no longer be able to operate as a CRE nor received promotion points***

## **New CRE Procedure becomes effective March 1, 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

\*If you order the Guide by April 1, 2015 once you receive your new Guide you have 30 days to upgrade to Advance CRE and be "grandfathered" in at your equivalent level.

### 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 April 1, 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. Those that order the new Guide and pay for the upgrade to advanced CRE with still have 30 days after receiving the new Guide to complete the requirements and be "grandfathered" in.
- 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 on 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.
- 10 There is a \$35 process fee for all levels to upgrade which must be sent with the application which can be found on line as a download

# USJA





From our friends at



## Blind Judo Foundation To Introduce Judo At 3rd Annual Coachella Valley DisAbility Sports Festival

*The sport of Judo provided by the Blind Judo Foundation will make its debut as one of several sports for people with disabilities at the Coachella Valley DisAbility Sports Festival, Saturday, January 24, 2015 in Palm Desert, CA. Event organizers hope to raise awareness of the opportunities available for people with disabilities and to serve as a link to adaptive sports programs in the Coachella Valley communities.*

The DisAbility Sports Festival in the Coachella Valley is in its third year but its first year of introducing the sport of Judo to all its attendees opening further awareness and more opportunities and sports for all who attend. The event is free for people with any disability and of any age.

The DisAbility Sports Festival expanded to the Coachella Valley in 2012 spearheaded by the nonprofit INCIGHT and in collaboration with the Desert Recreation District along with the City of La Quinta. Judy May, the Regional Director of INCIGHT says "INCIGHT recognized the value of this event and what it could bring to the communities within Coachella Valley." She continues by saying "its value was recognized by the community and consequently increased its attendance by more than 200% in its second year."

Judy May says "what makes this event unique and of the highest caliber are the coaches who freely give of their time to support and engage community members who live with disabilities." Judy continues by saying "this year two new sports are being added, one of which is Judo." Supporting Judo is Sensei Walter Dean who, along with Sensei Gary Goltz, have fully supported the San Bernardino Festival and will once again represent the Blind Judo Foundation in Coachella Valley.

Sensei Dean is an International Blind Sports Association (IBSA) Delegate for the Pan Americas representing the Judo community of IBSA for North and South America and all islands within the area. Dean also served as the Assistant Judo Coach along with Head Judo Coach Willy Cahill, Co-Founder of the Blind Judo Foundation of at the 2000 US Paralympic Judo Team in Sydney.

Sensei Gary Goltz, President of the US Judo Association (USJA) and President of Goltz Judo will be supporting the Festival also along with interested Black Belts from his Club who are familiar with the DisAbility Sports Festival who will once again support Sensei Goltz in Coachella Valley bringing a new awareness of Judo for those attendees with disabilities.

The festival is now held in the Palm Desert Civic Center Park in Palm Desert and supported by various sponsors including gold sponsors Molina Healthcare and United Cerebral Palsy – Inland Empire. The DisAbility Sports Festivals are available to all people of all ages with any disability and serves as a way to introduce those who live with disabilities to a variety of sports including the sport of Judo.







## From our friends at



To register for Judo or other sports at the Coachella Valley DisAbility Sports Festival, please visit <http://bit.ly/CoachellaDSF>

### 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\(at\)blindjudofoundation\(dot\)org](mailto:roncpeck(at)blindjudofoundation(dot)org) or 1-425-444-8256.





## Upcoming Events

### 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 Szejter  
**Location:** TBD  
**Address:** 2246 Stevens Mill Rd  
**City:** Matthews  
**State:** NC  
**Zip:** 28104  
**Phone:** 704-336-5778  
**Website:** <http://www.greatestcamp.com>

### 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



## 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



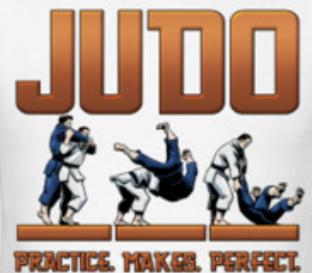




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# GRASSROOTS JUDO™



USJA ~ USJF

BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS AND BETTER PEOPLE THROUGH JUDO

## SUMMER NATIONALS JULY 10 - 12, 2015 INDIANAPOLIS

Deadline for early registration is June 5th!

 Registration Information!

WEBSITE

JAJF2015.COM

Tournament Registration Information

Junior Competitors

Senior Competitors