



UNITED STATES JUDO ASSOCIATION

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Important Reasons Why You Should Be A USJA Member

The United States Judo Association (USJA) is dedicated to building judo throughout the United States. The motto of the USJA is "Building American Youth Through Judo." This motto has paved the way for the USJA to grow into the largest and finest judo organization in the country. The programs of the USJA have inspired thousands of young people across the country to take up the sport of judo. The USJA Board of Directors, the USJA National Staff, and the dedicated coaches in over 1,500 USJA Clubs are all interested in doing everything possible to make judo an exciting and rewarding activity for you and your family. All martial arts in alliance with the USJA subscribe to the listed principles in their art.

The USJA is an independent, national amateur sports organization, originally founded in 1954 and now established in accordance with the U.S. Amateur Sports Act of 1978. The USJA is a Charter Group "A" member of the U.S. National Governing Body (NGB) for judo, which in turn, is a member of the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) and the International Judo Federation (IJF). The USJA was incorporated as a nonprofit organization in the District of Columbia in 1975. The USJA is the largest judo organization in America, with membership over 24,000.

The primary purposes of the USJA, as stated in the USJA Constitution and By-Laws, are the advancement of amateur athletic competition in the sport of judo in the United States as well as in international competition, advancement of recreation and physical fitness through the sport of judo, and further development of public interest and participation in the sport of judo as a vehicle for developing sportsmanship, citizenship, and physical and mental well being.

Here are some of the many direct and significant benefits for you and your family as members of the United States Judo Association.

- The USJA Supply Division:** The Supply Division handles an entire line of merchandise including judo books, judo uniforms (including reversible), patches, pins, rank system materials, backpacks, gym bags, belts, clothing and assorted decals. If you would like to receive a current supply catalog or place an order, call 719-633-7750, or you may contact us over the internet. The USJA also has a complete line of video tapes on training and tactics in competition.
- National Registration:** Your membership application is sent directly to the USJA National Headquarters in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Your membership and judo rank are entered in the computer at the National Headquarters and you receive a national membership card, with your name and judo rank printed on the card.
- Fair and Efficient Promotion System:** As a member of the USJA and a USJA Chartered Club, you are eligible to be promoted through the USJA Junior or Senior Rank System. These are nationally accredited promotion systems that provide for: (a) an efficiently taught course of instruction at your club or school, (b) an examination of what you have learned and, (c) an award of rank. All USJA promotions go directly from your club to the USJA National Headquarters, and all USJA members are given an equal and fair chance to achieve their promotions based on their participation, knowledge and ability.
- National Rank Credentials:** All of your USJA rank promotions are registered in the USJA National Headquarters computer. Each time you are promoted, you will receive a national rank certificate, a new membership card with your rank printed on it, and a colorful rank patch to wear on your uniform.
- Twelve Month Memberships:** USJA annual memberships are for a 12 month period from the time received. If you join the USJA in July of one year, your membership will expire at the end of July of the following year. You get your money's worth with USJA membership.
- Family Memberships:** The USJA Family Membership plan is another way for a family to save money. If you have three or more members in the same family, you can save a significant amount on membership fees by using this plan.
- Insurance:** USJA annual membership includes accident insurance for judo. Our annual insurance plan (effective September 1st through August 31st) provides \$25,000 in excess coverage with a \$2,500 deductible. All clubs who join the USJA and register five or more members become a USJA Chartered Club and automatically receive \$1,000,000 of liability insurance. This insurance covers you at practice sessions and at all sanctioned events.

8. **National Board or Directors:** The USJA is a highly democratic organization that is responsive to the needs of its individual members. The USJA has a National Board of Directors who are elected by the senior membership. As a USJA senior member (17 years of age and older), you are eligible to vote for the National Directors of your choice and you have a direct and clear voice at the national level.
9. **USJA Life Membership:** The USJA Board of Directors has established a USJA Life Membership program for the specific purpose of building a development fund. The USJA operates on a break-even basis, giving you a dollar's worth of service for every membership dollar received. The USJA Life Membership program provides you with the unique opportunity to directly help American judo at the national and international levels. All donations that you make on your Life Membership are for this specific purpose.

The USJA membership application contains a section for you to start or continue your USJA Life Membership. If you are interested in helping make the United States a leader in world judo, you should seriously consider supporting this great program. The USJA is classified as a 501(c) (3) organization under the Internal Revenue Code and any contributions that you make over your regular Life Membership are tax deductible contributions. Fully paid Life Members are not required to pay annual dues; however, they are encouraged to keep their insurance current if they are active in the sport of judo.

10. **USJA Summer Camps:** Each year, the USJA runs a series of week-long summer camps at many locations throughout the United States for both juniors and seniors. These camps feature certifications in all USJA certification areas, as well as promotion exams, and competition techniques.
11. **Judo Tournaments:** The USJA holds national championships and sanctions over 500 local, state, and regional tournaments across the country every year. Tournaments are very important for the technical development of our competitors, and the USJA does everything possible to promote tournaments in every area. As a USJA member, you will be eligible to participate in all USJA sanctioned events. The USJA Junior National Championships is among the largest and finest tournaments of its kind in the country.
12. **USJA Clinics:** As a USJA member, you will have an opportunity to attend clinics given by top coaches and competitors every year. These clinics are held throughout the country by the USJA National Coaching Staff and other top USJA coaches, trainers, and competitors. USJA clinics give you an opportunity to meet, talk to, learn from, and practice with the best judo coaches and athletes in the country.
13. **Coach, Rank Examiner, Kata Instructor, Kata Judge and Referee Certification:** The USJA has developed and administers a comprehensive certification program in each of these areas. The USJA Coach Certification Program has joined with the American Sport Education Program (ASEP) to provide you with the best caliber of coaching possible. This means that you will receive the best coaching and officiating possible as a USJA member in a USJA club, school, or competitive event. .
14. **Centralized Administration:** The USJA maintains a full-time National Headquarters staff to handle all of your needs and to assist you in every way possible. All USJA membership, promotions, and certifications are processed and recorded in this one central location. USJA members are welcome to call at any time. The USJA National Headquarters will be happy to answer your questions in a prompt and courteous manner.

USJA membership provides you and your family with the most service for your membership dollar. It provides you with an opportunity to belong to the largest family of judo players and coaches in the country. Each individual membership is important to the continued growth and prosperity of American judo and your support counts. If you are not presently a member, you should join today!