

USJA Background Screening Policy

Goals

The goals of this policy are to protect our students and members by:

1. Preventing and dealing with sexual abuse;
2. Preventing interaction with sexual predators and sexual abusers;

Protocols

A national screening agency shall be used to determine if any coach, instructor, referee, or yudansha holding a rank of 1st Dan or higher has a felony conviction for the following:

1. Crimes against children;
2. Sex abuse, rape, or assault;
3. Crimes of violence;
4. Drug and alcohol crimes.

If charges have been brought against the candidate without a felony conviction of a pedophilia type nature, sanctions may apply.

Who Must Undergo Background Check/Screening

The policy requires that ALL of the following individuals must undergo the USJA background check/screening program:

1. All members of all USJA Committees;
2. All members of the Board of Directors and all Corporate officers;
3. Applicants for instructor certification - both new and renewing;
4. Applicants for coach certification - both new and renewing;
5. Applicants for referee certification - both new and renewing;
6. Applicants for yudansha promotions to any rank of 1st Dan or higher;
7. All members claiming promotion points for coaching activities.

In order to implement this program, ALL currently certified instructors, coaches, referees, yudansha holding a rank of 1st Dan or higher, members of all USJA Committees, all Members of the Board of Directors, and all Corporate Officers must undergo the USJA background check/screening program.

When to Apply For the Background Check/Screening

1. ALL currently certified instructors, coaches, referees, yudansha holding a rank of 1st Dan or higher, members of all USJA Committees, all Members of the Board of Directors, all Corporate Officers, and all Members claiming promotion points for coaching activities must undergo the USJA background check/screening program NOW.
2. Any time to have it in your records in anticipation of future certifications and/or promotions.
3. When applying for any yudansha promotion (1st Dan or higher) and if claiming promotion points for coaching activities.

Exemptions and Other Provisions

The screening is not necessary if one of the following apply:

1. Applicant is a minor;
2. Applicant has passed a USJA screening within the last 4 years

USJA Background Screening Procedures

1. All parties to be screened must do so through SSCI.
2. All reports are mailed directly to the Chief Screener's home. Nothing from SSCI goes directly to the National Office.
3. Reciprocity exists only with USA Judo (USJI) and USJF. Written notification by USA Judo or USJF must be sent to the Chief Screener before USJA screening can be completed.
4. If there is no record, then the applicant's Name, Address (P.O. Boxes are not allowed), DOB, and USJA membership # is recorded in the Chief Screener's Records.
5. The Report from SSCI is then immediately shredded by the Chief Screener.
6. The Screened member's Name, Address, DOB, and USJA membership # is then E-Mailed to Katrina Davis at the National Office. To verify that the Screened Names have been received, Katrina Davis then will forward back to the Chief Screener, via e-mail, exactly what has been sent to her.
7. The National Office then notifies the member in writing that they have successfully been screened and they include a new membership card with the screening expiration date on it.
8. A copy of the screened member's Name, Address, DOB, and USJA membership # is also forwarded to the Chairman of The Standards and Ethics Committee.
9. If there is a misdemeanor record involving **1. crimes against children, 2. sexual abuse, rape or assault, 3. crimes of violence, or 4. drug and alcohol crimes**, the applicant is notified by the Chief Screener by mail, that a disqualifying event has appeared on their screening report and that the matter will be referred to the Background Screening Review Committee. A copy of this letter is E-Mailed to the Chairman of the Standards and Ethics Committee. Please note that charges of the nature outlined above, if not a felony, can result in screening being denied. USJA Code of Ethics has zero tolerance for Pedophilia and crimes against children. A misdemeanor Pedophilia charge will be referred to Standards and Ethics Committee for investigation, report, and recommendation to the Board of Directors for final disposition.
10. The Background Screening Review Committee determines if they believe the member is a danger to others.
11. This process of the Background Screening Review Committee is completed on an individual basis. A screening clearance may be given with certain restrictions, directions and/or future re-screening requirements imposed. An applicant also may be denied.
12. If there is a felony record, the matter is referred to the Standards and Ethics Committee for investigation, since it is contrary to our Code of Ethics for a member to be a convicted felon.
13. The applicant is notified of this in writing by the Chief Screener and a copy of this letter is E-Mailed to the Chairman of the Standards and Ethics Committee.
14. The Standard and Ethics Committee then initiates an investigation and makes a recommendation to the Board of Directors and the Board renders a disposition. This Background Screening is good for 4 years. Everything concluded in this Screening process may be appealed directly to the Board of Directors.