

CERTIFICATION RENEWAL REVIEW OF USA JUDO

Executive Summary

The USOPC's Certification Review Group (CRG) renewed [USA Judo](#) as the certified National Governing Body (NGB) for the sport(s) of Judo and para within the United States. The CRG's holistic review resulted in a Renewal with Conditions rating to provide USA Judo until December 31, 2026 to remediate outstanding issues before the CRG considers an upgrade to Renewal in Good Standing. The details of the CRG's review are included in the following report.

NGB Certification Overview

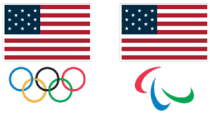
NGB Certification History

The CRG first reviewed USA Judo in 2022, after its quadrennial compliance audit. As noted in the associated graph, USA Judo received a rating of Renewal in Good Standing based on the NGB's remediation of compliance audit findings, as well as its overall performance in five key areas: Governance and Compliance, Financial Standards and Reporting Practices, Athlete Protections and Rights, Sport Performance, and Operational Performance.

NGB Certification Status	
2026	Renewal with Conditions
2022	Renewal in Good Standing
2021	Certified

Athlete Representation Review Working Group (ARRWG) Decisions

USA Judo requested that the ARRWG review and approve expanded athlete representation options. The ARRWG's determinations can be found in USA Judo's effective [Record of Decision](#).



Athlete Well-Being

Athlete Listening

The CRG uses feedback from eligible, currently competing Team USA Athletes about their NGBs through the annual Athlete Listening Survey. To supplement, the Athlete Services department also engages in discussion with athlete representatives from the NGB under certification review. If an NGB does not have enough participants to meet the survey's participation threshold¹, which triggers an individual report about that specific NGB, then the CRG uses only discussion-based feedback as part of the holistic evaluation.

USA Judo received positive athlete feedback; athletes noted the efforts to support athlete participation in camps and tournaments, though timeliness and delivery of services require continued attention. The NGB is actively focused on seating committees with athletes and athletes feeling an overall positive reception to athlete voices. The organization is focused on preparations for LA28, working on selection procedures, and athletes felt appropriately included in the process. Athletes credited the new leadership for taking accountability and demonstrating a strong commitment to organization.

USA Judo had 53 athletes in its most recent Athlete Listening Survey sample, and 5 responded to the survey. The NGB's most recent results show the following:

Survey Inquiry	Athlete Feedback
Overall satisfaction with NGB	4 of the 4 responses indicated somewhat to very satisfied
Overall wellbeing	3 of the 4 responses indicated somewhat satisfied to satisfied
Confidence in NGB's use of athlete feedback to inform policy and programmatic decisions	2 of the 3 responses indicated somewhat to moderately confident

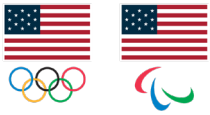
Athlete Safety

USA Judo maintains and enforces an athlete safety program consistent with the requirements of relevant federal law, as well as with the policies and standards of the USOPC and the U.S. Center for SafeSport (the Center). Please see the Center's most recent [Administrative Audit](#) and corresponding [Corrective Action Taken report](#), as well as its most recent [Event Audit](#) and corresponding [Corrective Action Taken report](#), for more details on the NGB's work to foster a safe environment for its athlete participants.

Anti-Doping

USA Judo maintains an anti-doping program consistent with the requirements of the USOPC and the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) in its efforts to preserve clean and fair competition for its athlete participants. USA Judo submits its Registered Testing Pool and Clean Athlete Program athlete lists on time, identifies all athletes on Delegation Event Long Lists, and ensures that a staff member is responsible to serve as the USADA liaison in executing its anti-doping program.

¹ See the Appendix for details on the Athlete Listening Survey.

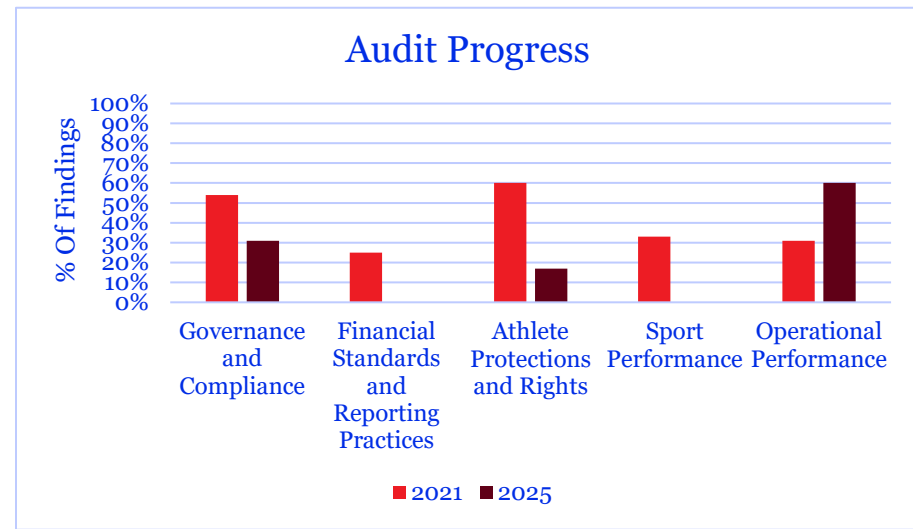


NGB Operational Health

Audit

The most recent [Compliance Audit](#) conducted in 2025 resulted in 8 findings. As depicted in the associated graph, the NGB reduced its number of audit findings in most core areas of evaluation within its most recent audit, demonstrating its progress to achieving organizational excellence. USA Judo created management action plans to resolve the identified issues in a timely manner, and the outstanding higher risk audit findings have been incorporated into this recommendation as conditions of the certification renewal.

The Audit department identified several areas of significant concern related to the conflict of interest process, athlete advisory committee, background check process, board capabilities, and complaint resolution and hearing procedures. Since the issuance of the compliance audit report, USA Judo has revised applicable policies and the organization continues to make progress in strengthening its governance and operational processes. The Audit department will return to assess its efficacy in Q1 2027 to resolve the findings. Resolution of the findings are conditions of this certification.

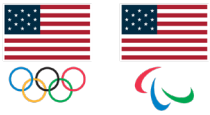


Compliance

In addition to addressing many of its audit findings, USA Judo also demonstrates operational health by fulfilling ongoing compliance obligations assessed by the USOPC Compliance team. The NGB routinely submits required annual reporting, publishes required documentation on its website, maintains adequate athlete representation on its board of directors, maintains required insurance coverages, and is in good standing with the IRS. Although the NGB is current in fulfilling many ongoing compliance obligations, in 2025, the organization was the subject of an investigation conducted by the USOPC Compliance team. The investigation resulted in 7 required reforms, which the NGB is actively addressing in a timely manner.

Demographic Reporting

USA Judo's operational health is also assessed through its active participation in the USOPC's NGB Inclusion programming. The NGB consistently submits its demographic data to the USOPC as reflected in its most recent [Demographic Data Report](#), as well as submits a comprehensive Inclusion Action Plan, which outlines key Inclusion initiatives, target groups, and success measures that the organization commits to for the duration of the quadrennium.



Competitive Excellence

High Performance Programs

USA Judo maintains and executes a strategic plan that supports Team USA athletes in achieving sustained competitive excellence. The NGB submits its High Performance Plan and Delegation Event Selection Procedures to the USOPC Sport Performance and NGB Services departments on time, spends its allocated high performance funds effectively, maintains a systemic talent identification process, and is timely in its requests to leverage Olympic & Paralympic Training Centers, sites, and USOPC service providers.

Although these performance outcomes do not impact the certification status of the NGB, the USOPC includes this information to recognize USA Judo's work to support its athletes in competitive excellence. Below is a table of highlighted performance outcomes from Delegation Events within the last four years:

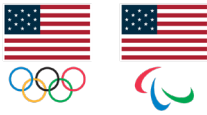
Delegation Event Highlights				
Year	Delegation Event	Athletes Selected ²	Total Events	Total Medals
2024	Olympic Games	29%	4	0
2024	Paralympic Games	13%	2	2
2023	Pan American Games	100%	13	3
2023	Para Pan American Games	25%	3	3

Conclusion

The CRG concluded, based on the results of the USOPC Audit team's 2025 Compliance Audit as well as individual CRG members' assessments, that USA Judo has met most of the requirements in the core areas of evaluation for NGB certification renewal. Furthermore, the CRG is confident in USA Judo's ability to fulfill all management action plans and reach full compliance with the NGB Compliance Standards based on its interactions with USA Judo staff. However, the CRG identified areas where USA Judo has not yet demonstrated compliance with the NGB Compliance Standards and cannot yet be renewed as a member in good standing. Accordingly, the CRG recommends that USA Judo's certification as a member organization of the USOPC be granted with a status of Renewal with Conditions with a deadline of December 31, 2026, to fulfill the conditions of certification. The conditions of this certification are listed below.

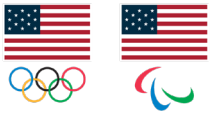
Standard / Reasoning		Condition	Assessment
A.1 a & b	Athlete Representation	USA Judo must fully populate its Designated Committees with sufficient athlete representation to meet the NGB Compliance Standards.	Submit to the USOPC Audit team testing to confirm that athlete representation requirements have been met.

² Athletes Selected is the percentage of total athletes selected out of the total possible.



A.6 a	Conflict of Interest Policy	USA Judo must successfully execute on its revised conflicts of interest policy's disclosure process to meet the NGB Compliance Standards.	Submit testing to the USOPC Audit team to confirm that conflict of interest disclosure and review processes are being executed in accordance with USA Judo's policy.
C.3 a	USOPC Athlete Safety Requirements	USA Judo must successfully execute its background check policy to meet the NGB Compliance Standards.	Submit testing to the USOPC Audit team to confirm compliance with the policy.
E.1a	Managerial Capability	USA Judo must successfully complete the required reforms issued by the USOPC by the dates communicated to USA Judo.	Submit required documentation of required reforms to the USOPC Compliance team.
E.4 a & b	Complaint Resolution and Hearing Procedures	USA Judo must successfully execute on its revised complaint resolution and hearing procedures to meet the NGB Compliance Standards.	Submit testing to the USOPC Audit team to confirm that USA Judo followed its process in administering a hearing.

In accordance with the NGB Certification Policy, if the CRG determines that USA Judo has successfully addressed the conditions by the deadline, the CRG will recommend that its certification status be upgraded to Renewal in Good Standing. If USA Judo does not resolve these issues to the CRG's satisfaction by the deadline, its certification rating may be downgraded and the CRG will discuss whether accountability measures are appropriate to address USA Judo's delayed action.



Appendix

Certification Renewal Process

The USOPC promotes and supports a culture of good governance, ethics, and compliance among the NGBs that, as member organizations of the USOPC, make up the Olympic and Paralympic Movement. Amendments to the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act (the Act), which became effective in late 2020, require the USOPC to certify NGBs.³ The USOPC determined that as of January 1, 2021, all member organizations would be certified, and their certifications would be reviewed for renewal on a rolling basis every four years.⁴

Governed by the USOPC's [NGB Certification Policy](#), the NGB certification review process is supported by a cross-functional body of professionals at the USOPC, the Certification Review Group (CRG), who interact with NGBs in their day-to-day work. These professionals evaluate an NGB's operations across multiple functional areas to provide a holistic review of an NGB's performance and culture.⁵ In addition to enumerated standards for NGB performance described in the Act, the [USOPC Bylaws](#), and the USOPC's NGB Compliance Standards, the CRG considers departmental observations about an NGB's operations that may not be identified in a formal audit but are relevant to consider when evaluating an NGB's overall performance. CRG members use departmental data, as well as consider timeliness and execution of an NGB's operational practices respective to their department's work. Thus, CRG members representing different departments use various sources of data to inform holistic NGB ratings.

Athlete Listening Survey

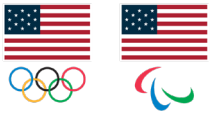
As required by the Act, and further prescribed in the USOPC Bylaws and [USOPC and IMS Compliance Standards](#), Standard C.6, the USOPC solicits feedback from eligible, currently competing Team USA athletes concerning their satisfaction with the USOPC, Team USA Athletes' Commission, the Center, and their NGB through an annually distributed Athlete Listening Survey. The Athlete Listening Survey aims to: (1) amplify athletes' voices in a confidential manner to better understand their experience, sentiment, service satisfaction, and overall needs; (2) provide athletes with a platform to give feedback used in USOPC decision making; and (3) capture data of the athlete experience over time.

Within an NGB's certification renewal review period, the CRG uses athletes' responses from the Athlete Listening Survey respective to their NGB to inform the CRG's overall certification rating. To trigger the production of a report specific to an NGB, the Athlete Listening Survey must be distributed to at least twenty eligible athletes and result in a minimum of five participating respondents. If this participation threshold is not met, an NGB-specific survey is not produced, but the data is still included as part of the comprehensive survey.

³ See §220521(a) of the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act.

⁴ NGB Certification Policy, Section 1.

⁵ The CRG uses a four-year lookback period during this review process.



Certification Standards, Exceptions, and Review Components

As required by Standard A.2 of the USOPC and IMS Compliance Standards, and described in Section 8.4.1 of the USOPC Bylaws, the USOPC must administer its membership by requiring NGBs to satisfy certification requirements in five core areas: Governance and Compliance, Financial Standards and Reporting Practices, Athlete Safety, Sport Performance, and Operational Performance. The USOPC Implementation Guide for NGB Compliance Standards provides NGBs with specific guidance for how they will be evaluated in each of these core areas.

Section 8.4.2 of the USOPC Bylaws permits an NGB to submit a request for limited exceptions to any of the NGB Compliance Standards which, as a result of its overall structure or other extenuating circumstances, cannot or need not be reasonably met. The CRG evaluates all requests received and grants or denies such limited exceptions.

Various provisions of Section 8.5 of the USOPC Bylaws permit NGBs to seek exceptions related to minimum athlete representation requirements on boards and designated committees as well as exceptions or additions to which of its committees are considered designated committees. The Athlete Representation Review Working Group evaluates and approves or denies all requests made under Section 8.5.