

Michael Larsen

Allow me to introduce myself as Michael Larsen. I have been involved with judo for the past 33 years of my life. I am applying for the Para Olympic Athlete Director. From 2008 to 2017 I represented Team USA at national and international tournaments. I feel that my years traveling and competing as a Para Olympic athlete qualify me to give direction to future Para Olympic athletes. I understand the challenges involved in choosing coaches, creating physical fitness plans, traveling alone, fundraising for personal expenses, cultivating professional contacts and all of the additional challenges that Para Olympic athletes face.

As the Para Olympic Athlete Director, my vision would be to grow the sport of judo through training camps and expanded recruiting of visually impaired athletes. I feel that I have the passion and enthusiasm to embrace this project.

My ideas for recruiting new athletes include contacting the State Schools For The Blind, social media groups geared towards the VI community, and visually impaired organizations that target sports and recreations such as Lighthouse For The Blind. Other such organizations include mobility training centers and guide dogs schools.

My goal would be to have four regional training camps a year. Locations are geared towards the West Coast, East Coast, Midwest, and South. Regional training camps would enable visually impaired athletes to travel closer to home. These camps would allow the athlete to get additional coaching and improve their judo skills as well as network to prepare for the other challenges of traveling, training and being an elite athlete.

I feel through extended recruiting and regional training camps future athletes could be better prepared to face the challenges of being a Para Olympic athlete. As the Blind Judo Foundation Representative Athlete (2010-2014) I devoted my energy and leadership skills to bringing awareness to the Sport of VI Judo. I now look forward to contributing to the process of helping our future athletes reach their full potential.

Thank you once again for considering me for this prestigious appointment!

Sincerely yours,
Michael Larsen

Youtube Video Statement: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qtCT3nFXRTk>

Michael Larsen

Judo Competition Experience

2009 San Diego Nationals Bronze
2012 Senior Nationals Gold
Presidents Cup Gold
2013 Senior Nationals Silver
Pan American team member
US Open Bronze
2014 Senior Nationals Top Five
German Open Bronze
2015 Senior Nationals Silver
Presidents Cup Silver
2016 Para Olympic Trials Rank 5 Presidents Cup Silver
German Open Bronze
2017 Senior Nationals Gold
Tokyo Grand Prix Bronze

Affiliated Dojo's

Braille Institute Judo
Los Angeles, CA
Lyn Manny & Mike Verdugo
1993 to 1999

City College of San Francisco Judo
San Francisco, CA
Mitchell Palacio
2005 to 2014 and 2018 to 2020

Cahills Judo Academy
San Bruno, CA
Willy Cahill & Mike Pacino
2006 to 2014

Judo America San Diego
San Diego, CA
Gerald Lafon
2014 to 2018

Judan Judo
Portland, IN
Vickie & Brad Daniels
2022 to present.

Hokushin Judo
Indianapolis, IN
Mario Camacho
2024 to present

Ranks Awarded
2008 Shodan USJF
2012 Nidan USA Judo
2023 Sandan USA Judo