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# 2025 USA JUDO SENIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

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MAY 24-25, 2025

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA



# WELCOME TO THE 2025 USA JUDO SENIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS



USA Judo is pleased to welcome you to the USA Judo Senior National Championships in Birmingham, AL. Competition will take place at Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex and will feature the best athletes in the country going for gold.

## Know Before You Go

<b>Tournament Host:</b>	USA Judo		
<b>Sanctioning Organization:</b>	USA Judo		
<b>Tournament Contact:</b>	Vaughn Anderson: 719.213.4570, <a href="mailto:Vaughn.Anderson@usajudo.us">Vaughn.Anderson@usajudo.us</a> Eric Tschudy: 719.339.0937, <a href="mailto:Eric.Tschudy@usajudo.us">Eric.Tschudy@usajudo.us</a>		
<b>Online Registration:</b>	<a href="http://usajudo.sport80.com">usajudo.sport80.com</a>		
<b>Live Results:</b>	<a href="http://usajudo.smoothcomp.com">usajudo.smoothcomp.com</a>		
<b>Pointable Categories:</b>	Senior, IJF-Junior, Veterans, Visually Impaired		
<b>Non-Pointable Categories:</b>	Brown Belt, Novice, Kata		
<b>Tournament Site:</b>	Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex 2100 Richard Arrington Blvd N Birmingham, AL 35203		
<b>Host Hotel:</b>	Sheraton Birmingham Hotel 2101 Richard Arrington Jr Blvd N Birmingham, AL 35203		
<b>Key Dates:</b>	<b>Fri., May 23</b> Shiai Weigh-In (All Categories)  Referees, Coaches and Technical Officials Meetings  USA Judo Board of Directors Meeting  USA Judo Sub-Committee Meetings	<b>Sat., May 24</b> Shiai Competition (All Categories)  Kata Registration / Check-In	<b>Sun., May 25</b> Kata Competition
<b>Chief Referee:</b>	Dr. Gary Berliner		
<b>First-Time Competitors</b>	Click <a href="#">here</a> to view tips for athletes competing at their first national event.		

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## Deadlines and Entry Fees

### Shiai

Deadline	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3 or more	Open Only
Early Online Registration: April 17 (11:59 p.m. MT)	\$90	\$90	\$60	\$60
Regular Online Registration: May 1 (11:59 p.m. MT)	\$110	\$110	\$80	\$70
Late Online Registration: May 15 (11:59 p.m. MT)	\$150	\$150	\$120	\$85

### Kata

Deadline	Category 1 (per person)	Category 2 (per person)	Category 3 (per person)	4+ Categories (per person)
Early Online Registration: April 17 (11:59 p.m. MT)	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$40
Regular Online Registration: May 1 (11:59 p.m. MT)	\$65	\$65	\$65	\$55
Late Online Registration: May 15 (11:59 p.m. MT)	\$75	\$75	\$75	\$65

- All registration must be completed online. No paper registrations.
- **On-line registrations will not be accepted after Thursday, May 15 at 11:59 p.m. MT.**
- Athlete's date of birth, citizenship and rank, if applicable, must be verified in the database prior to using the online event registration system. Send copies of athlete's birth certificate/passport and rank certificate [connor.jenkins@usajudo.us](mailto:connor.jenkins@usajudo.us). Verifications will only be processed during normal business hours, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. MT.
- Entry into subsequent categories must be for same athlete.
- Entry fees are non-refundable and non-transferable
- **Absolutely no changes will be accepted after Thursday, May 15 at 11:59 p.m. MT.**

# Schedule of Events

(Subject to Change)

<b>Thursday, May 22</b>	<b>Sheraton Birmingham Hotel</b>
8 a.m.	Male Test Scales (Sheraton 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor) Female Test Scales (Sheraton 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor) (Test scales open through Friday evening)
<b>Friday, May 23</b>	<b>Sheraton Birmingham Hotel</b>
8 a.m.	USA Judo Board of Directors Meeting (Dogwood Room - 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor)
9 a.m. – Noon	Tournament check-in / changes for all competitors (Check in only if there is a change in category or weight) <b>NO WALK-UP REGISTRATION</b>
9 a.m. – Noon	Shiai Weigh-In: Novice, Brown Belt, Veterans Male Official Weigh-In (Ballroom 4) Female Official Weigh-In (Ballroom 3)
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.	USA Judo Subcommittee Meetings (Jefferson Room 1 & 2 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor)
10 a.m.	Preliminary List of Athletes Posted: <a href="http://usajudo.smoothcomp.com">usajudo.smoothcomp.com</a>
12:15 – 1 p.m.	Veteran, Brown Belt, Novice, VI Athletes Meeting (Ballroom 11)
5 - 6 p.m.	Technical Officials Meeting (Ballroom 11)
5 - 6 p.m.	Educational Rules Seminar for Referees (TBD)
6 - 7 p.m.	Event Referee Meeting (Ballroom 12)
7 - 8 p.m.	Coach Meeting (Ballroom 12)
6 - 8 p.m.	Shiai Weigh-In: Senior, IJF-Junior, Visually Impaired Male Official Weigh-In (Ballroom 4) Female Official Weigh-In (Ballroom 3)
8 p.m.	Draws Posted: <a href="http://usajudo.smoothcomp.com">usajudo.smoothcomp.com</a>
<b>Saturday, May 24</b>	<b>Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex</b>
7 a.m.	Doors Open
7:15 a.m.	Referees Meeting (North Hall Floor 2 Room A)
8 a.m.	Opening Ceremony
8:15 a.m.	Competition begins (All Shiai Categories)
1 - 2 p.m.	Kata Check-in
5 p.m. (or 45 minutes after the completion of the last regular contested match)	Senior Shiai Gold Medal Finals Finals to be followed by medals presentation for gold, silver and bronze Senior Shiai medalists

**Sunday, May 25**

**Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex**

8:30 a.m.

Kata Judges Check-in

10 a.m.

Kata Competition Begins

TBD

Kata Clinic immediately following awards

**NOTE: ATHLETES DO NOT NEED TO WEIGH IN FOR A SECOND CATEGORY IF THE SECOND CATEGORY IS THE SAME WEIGHT. IF A DIFFERENT WEIGHT CATEGORY, ATHLETE MUST WEIGH IN AGAIN. HOWEVER, ATHLETES COMPETING IN THE SENIOR, IJF-JUNIOR OR VISUALLY IMPAIRED CATEGORY MUST WEIGH IN DURING THE EVENING WEIGH-IN SESSION.**

*The tournament staff and officials reserve the right to make all final decisions regarding the tournament.*



## Event Code of Conduct

*(Applicable to all attendees, including, but not limited to Athletes, Coaches, Spectators, Officials, Volunteers, Parents)*

1. I will not engage in unsportsmanlike conduct.
2. I will not engage in any behavior which would endanger the health, safety, or well-being of any attendee.
3. I will not engage in the use of profanity.
4. I will treat any coach, parent, athlete, volunteer, official or any other attendee with respect.
5. I will not engage in verbal or physical threats or abuse aimed at any attendee.
6. I will not initiate a fight or unauthorized physical contact with any attendee.
7. I will obey all facility and organization rules.
8. I acknowledge that the concluding decision of the officials or event director is final.
9. I will accept the decision of the officials or event director with respect and grace.
10. I will be responsible for the sportsmanship of myself and teammates while assisting in maintaining a respectful environment for all participants.

It is agreed that if I fail to conform to the above while attending a USA Judo event through coaching, officiating, or participating in any capacity the following will occur:

- Verbal warnings will first be given to the individual
- If infraction occurs after the verbal warning a “yellow card” will be given to the head coach/individual as notice of first official warning.
- If the infraction occurs after the yellow card is distributed, a “red card” will be given to the head coach/individual which may trigger the immediate elimination from the Team Award consideration for both the tournament and the annual award.

If a red card is issued the individual may be subject to possible additional disciplinary actions, including but not limited to the below in any order or combination:

1. Immediate removal from event for the duration of the event
2. Removal of coach credentials for the duration of the event
3. Suspension of USA Judo membership, coach certification credentials, or official certification credentials.
4. If individual is removed from an event for failure to conform to the above CODE, their respective club may be eliminated from the Team Award consideration (loss of all points) for both the tournament and the annual award.

There is no expiration date as to the length of time an issued yellow or red card is valid.

**USA JUDO RESERVES THE RIGHT TO IMMEDIATELY REMOVE AN INDIVIDUAL FROM THE COMPETITION/ACTIVITY IF AN EGREGIOUS INCIDENT OCCURS WITHOUT FIRST ISSUING A VERBAL WARNING, YELLOW OR RED CARD.**

## Spectator Admission Fees

Age	One Day
13+	\$15.00
9-12	\$12.00
8 and Under	Free

Tickets are available at the door. VIP ticket packages will be available for advance purchase with further details to be announced in the coming weeks.

## Headquarters Hotel

**Headquarters:** *Sheraton Birmingham Hotel*  
2101 Richard Arrington Jr Blvd N  
Birmingham, AL 35203

**Rate:** Deluxe Queen: \$165 plus tax and fees  
Reservations: [Click here](#) to book online

**Deadline Date:** Book by Friday May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 to receive discounted rates.

*Rooms go fast so it is best to book as early as possible.*

## Transportation

**Air Transportation:** The nearest airport - Birmingham-Shuttlesworth Intl. Airport (Code BHM) – is located approximately 9 minutes from the host hotel and event venue and is a 5.1 mile drive

**Ground Transportation:** The Sheraton Birmingham Hotel is connected via walkways to the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex. Parking at the Sheraton is complimentary for those lodging at the hotel, while parking at the BJCC venue is \$20 **per entrance**.



## Coach Information

In order to coach mat-side, all coaches must have a coaching credential for the tournament.

Coaches must hold a current **USA Judo coaching certification**, including current background screen and concussion and SafeSport training to receive coaching credentials at this event. Credentials will be issued at the coaches meeting. All coaches must have a photo ID coach credential to receive a wristband for the event.

All USA Judo coaches must register for the event through the event online entry system at [usajudo.sport80.com](http://usajudo.sport80.com) to receive wristbands. There is no charge for registering. Log into your USA Judo profile and click on Events to register.

**NOTE:** Only one coach is allowed to coach mat-side inside the barricade during each match. Coaches who fail to comply this this rule may lose their coach wristband for the day and may be removed from the venue.

Credentials will be issued at the coaches meeting.

All coaches must adhere to the following dress code during this event. Failure to adhere will be grounds for removal of coaching credentials.

**Acceptable apparel:** national or club team track suit (sweatsuit) with polo shirt; business casual attire, dress jeans (no holes or markings); button down shirts or polo shirts. Dress shoes, sneakers (tennis shoes).

**Forbidden apparel:** flip flops, sandals, shorts, T-shirts, hats.

## Referee Event Registration

All referees must first register on the [USA Judo Referee Information](http://USA Judo Referee Information) website, [judoreferee.com](http://judoreferee.com). Once confirmed by the Referee Committee you must then register on the event website.

Log into your USA Judo membership profile at [usajudo.sport80.com](http://usajudo.sport80.com) and click on Events. Select the 2023 USA Judo Senior National Championships and follow prompts to register.

If you do not register or are not confirmed through the [judoreferee.com](http://judoreferee.com) site, but do register on the event platform, you may not be allowed to participate in the event and USA Judo will not be responsible for any expenses associated with your travel/stay to the event.

# Eligibility

All athletes must be members in good standing of USA Judo, including individuals without citizenship who are competing in events that are not a trials. Athletes may compete if they meet the eligibility requirements, submit the required documentation, pay the required fees and there is no conflict regarding weigh in and competition schedules.

In addition, all athletes must have been born December 31, 2010 or earlier or have obtained the appropriate Age Waiver. See <https://www.usajudo.com/athletes/juniors/usa-judo-age-waiver-information> for more information. All Age Waiver applications must be sent to Jim Hrbek at [judolym@aol.com](mailto:judolym@aol.com) by May 1, 2025.

Per the USA Judo Athlete / Event Payment Policy, any individual who has an outstanding debt from an international trip and has not made the required payment(s) within the payment window outlined in the policy will not be eligible to compete until the payment has been made.

## Citizenship Requirements

*Senior Elite and IJF-Junior (All Categories Except Open), Visually Impaired*

- U.S. Citizens only and have not represented another country internationally in the last 3 years, or athletes who meet the criteria of the International Judo Federation's refugee.

*Senior Open, IJF-Junior Open, Veterans, Brown Belt, Novice, Kata Categories*

- U.S. citizens
- Athletes with Permanent Resident Cards (Green Cards) or visas
- Non-U.S. citizens who have submitted international passport and date of birth documentation AND are USA Judo Members in good standing with the organization.
- International non-USA Judo members must request an invitation letter and submit an approval letter from their home federation to [connor.jenkins@usajudo.us](mailto:connor.jenkins@usajudo.us).
- Athletes who meet the criteria of the International Judo Federation refugee program and are currently approved with proof of documentation/acceptance from the IJF to participate in the refugee program, may also compete in the categories listed above. Please provide a copy of the necessary documents to [connor.jenkins@usajudo.us](mailto:connor.jenkins@usajudo.us).

## Additional Eligibility Requirements

Note: All ranks must be verified through USA Judo.

*Senior Elite Shiai Category (except Open Category)*

- Minimum rank of senior sankyu.
- Athletes participating in the Senior Elite Shiai divisions must not have represented another country at a Senior Continental Championship or higher level within the past three years from the date of the Senior Nationals.

*Senior Elite Open Category*

- Minimum rank of senior sankyu.

*IJF-Junior Categories*

- Born 2005-2010
- No minimum rank required.

### Visually Impaired Category

- Must have been classified as visually impaired at an IBSA or IPC event in the past 10 years or provide a letter from an optometrist or ophthalmologist verifying visual acuity.
- Competitors will be divided by classification and weight category. A meeting will be held on Friday, May 23 as noted in the schedule to create exhibition categories as needed. All exhibition events are not eligible for points.
- Classification: USA Judo has adopted the updated visual classifications as presented by the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) for all events which include Para-sport divisions. These classifications are as follows:
  - 1. J1 - an athlete's vision impairment must result in a visual acuity of less than or equal to LogMAR 2.6 in binocular vision, with correction.
  - 2. J2 - The athlete's vision acuity must be within a range between LogMAR 1.3 and 2.5 with binocular vision, or with a binocular visual field of 60 degrees or less in diameter, with correction.

For more information, please visit <https://ibsajudo.sport/about-judo/classification/>. Acuity must be confirmed by an ophthalmologist prior to competition. [Click here](#) to download the verification of visual impairment form. If this is the first time you are participating in a Para category at a USA Judo national event and need to be classified, or if you have any questions on classifications. Please contact Heidi Moore at [judoheidi@comcast.net](mailto:judoheidi@comcast.net) or 303-591-9563.

### Veterans Category

1. Minimum rank of senior sankyu.
2. Age is determined by year of birth. Minimum year of birth is 1993.

Age from	Age to	YOB from	YOB to	Female	Male
30	34	1995	1991	F1	M1
35	39	1990	1986	F2	M2
40	44	1985	1981	F3	M3
45	49	1980	1976	F4	M4
50	54	1975	1971	F5	M5
55	59	1970	1966	F6	M6
60	64	1965	1961	F7	M7
65	69	1960	1956	F8	M8
70	74	1955	1951	F9	M9
75	79	1950	1946	F10	M10
80	+	1945		F11	M11

### Brown Belt Category

1. No dan ranks allowed (all other belts allowed).

### Novice Category

1. Only ranks other than black or brown belts.

### Kata Category

1. Open to all ranks.
2. Athletes competing in U23 category must be born 2002 or later.
3. Additional details regarding the kata competition can be found in the Kata Categories section of this entry packet.

## Shiai Weight Divisions

Able-bodied Divisions:

Female: -48 kg, -52 kg, -57 kg, -63 kg, -70 kg, -78 kg, +78 kg, Open

Male: -60 kg, -66 kg, -73 kg, -81 kg, -90 kg, -100 kg, +100 kg, Open

Visually Impaired Divisions (J1 and J2 classifications will compete separately):

Female: -46 kg (non-paralympic), -52 kg, -60 kg, -70 kg, +70kg, Open

Male: -64 kg (non-paralympic), -70 kg, -81 kg, -95kg, +95 kg, Open

The tournament staff and officials reserve the right to make changes in the highest and lowest weight classes in all age divisions as necessary for safety purposes. When such adjustments are made, only the highest weight sub-category will be pointable.

## Kata Categories

Kata National Championships will be conducted in accordance with the current procedures of USA Judo. The IJF criteria will be applied with the exception of an IJF-label judo gi and back patch are not necessary for a correct judo gi.

The 2025 Kata National Championships will include the following categories: Open, Intermediate and U23 (athletes born 2002 or later). The Intermediate category is targeted at developing teams. Teams who have competed at the international level are not eligible for the Intermediate category in that kata (division).

- Former USA kata team members can only compete in the U23 or Open category in their internationally competed Kata(s).
- If a player has previously medaled in a Sr Nationals Open category in a kata, they cannot compete at the intermediate level in that kata.

Each division within each category will be a combined division irrespective of gender. Example: For the division of Nage-no-kata in the category of U23, the division will include all kata teams irrespective of gender (that is, male, female and mixed teams will compete together).

Divisions in each category (Open, Intermediate and U23) are as follows:

Open	Intermediate	U23
Nage no Kata	Nage no Kata	Nage no Kata
Katame no Kata	Katame no Kata	Katame no Kata
Ju no Kata	Ju no Kata	Ju no Kata
Kime no Kata	Kime no Kata	Kime no Kata
Kodokan GoshinJutsu	Kodokan GoshinJutsu	Kodokan GoshinJutsu
Isutsu no Kata		
Koshiki no Kata		

An athlete may only enter each division once. Examples: An athlete may not enter Open Nage-no-kata with two different partners. An athlete may enter Open Nage-no-kata and Intermediate Nage-no-kata with two different partners, if the skill level is appropriate.

All-around awards will be given to male, female and mixed teams. To qualify for an All-Around award, the same kata team athletes must enter and compete in at least three katas. The role of uke and tori may vary but the athletes must be the same.

Teams in the Open and U23 categories will have first consideration for USA teams for the IJF Kata World Championships and PJC Pan American Kata Championships in the U23 and Open categories. Note: Athletes seeking to compete in international competition must meet that event's criteria, including age eligibility criteria.

## Weigh In

A calibrated practice scale will be available prior to, and during, the weigh-in periods. However, in no case will contestants be allowed on the Official Scale during Official Weigh-in for the purpose of checking weight.

Athletes may check weight as many times as desired prior to the official weigh-in on the official scale. An athlete is given only one chance on the official scale during official weigh-in. Open division contestants do not need to weigh in. **At weigh in, athletes competing in Senior Elite, IJF-Junior and Visually Impaired categories must present a government issued photo ID.** Photo ID not required for all other categories.

**Naked weigh in is not allowed for any age/weight category.** To compensate, 0.1kg will be allowed. For example, in the 44kg category the limit will be 44.1kg. This is a clothing allowance only and the 0.1kg will only be added to the true weight.

Athletes who neglected to change their weight during the check in process and missed weight during official weigh in, may enter an additional category by registering (and paying) for the new category as a walk-up registration.

**IMPORTANT:** All athletes must make their declared weight as registered unless a change is made during the check in/registration process prior to getting on the official scale. Athletes may change their weight category during check in/registration. Failure to make declared weight will result in the athlete not competing in that category. Athlete will not be automatically moved to next weight category. Once official weight is recorded, no changes to weight category will be accepted.

**NO CHANGES WILL BE ACCEPTED AT WEIGH IN.**

## Check In

Check in only if you have a change to your weight or category. If there are no changes to be made, please proceed directly to weigh-in. **No changes will be accepted or made at weigh-in.**

## Exhibition Matches

Exhibition matches may be offered for those athletes who are uncontested in their true age/weight category. Only those athletes who are uncontested may request an exhibition match. All efforts will be made to find one or two athletes within appropriate age/weight willing to participate. No points or medals will be awarded for exhibition matches. Request for exhibition matches must be made to the event director no later than 10 a.m. on the day that their uncontested category was scheduled. Blue and white gis still will be required.

## Club Affiliation

Only current USA Judo clubs in good standing, at the time of registration, will be associated with the athlete's entry. Non-USA Judo clubs will not be affiliated with a registered athlete. Club affiliation is not required to compete in this tournament.

## Credentials

Athletes will be issued their credentials during the weigh-in process.

## Confirmation of Categories / Draw

A preliminary list of athletes by category/weight will be available at <https://usajudo.smoothcomp.com>. Athletes/coaches/representatives for the athlete are required to check the list to ensure the athlete is in the correct category/weight.

- Any corrections should be reported immediately to staff no later than 8 p.m. on Friday, May 23. All corrections must be emailed to [Vaughn.Anderson@usajudo.us](mailto:Vaughn.Anderson@usajudo.us) or submitted in person onsite. **PHONE CALLS OR TEXTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**
- Corrections will be processed, then the draw will be run. Draw brackets and fight sheets will be posted at <https://usajudo.smoothcomp.com>.
- **IMPORTANT:** This period is for corrections / confirmations of changes made during the check-in/registration time period. **NO OTHER CHANGES WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

A representative for each athlete must review the posted preliminary list to ensure the athlete is in the correct category. Failure to confirm or make corrections during the Confirmation of Categories period may result in the athlete NOT COMPETING IN THIS TOURNAMENT. All draws will be conducted using USA Judo approved software. See Rules and Method of Competition for all seeding information. With the exception of seeding, the draw will be random. Once the draw is complete, there will be no changes except if two or more athletes fail to make weight or report to weigh-ins in the same category, the division may be redrawn.

## Rules and Method of Competition

The Championships will be conducted in accordance with the Contest Rules, Organization Code and Sporting Code of the International Judo Federation, as revised for this tournament. The exception to the IJF rules will be the usage of the competition methods for Veterans and IJF-Junior and categories and the match time for Veterans.

1. Points on the USA Judo National Roster will be awarded in Senior, Veteran, Visually Impaired and IJF-Junior categories only as outlined in the respective criteria. Criteria can be found at [www.usjudo.org](http://www.usjudo.org).
2. Athletes may only enter one weight per eligible category with the exception of Open weight, if applicable.
3. Shime-waza is allowed for all shiai categories except novice category and veteran categories for athletes in the 60 and older age groups.
4. Kansetsu-waza is allowed for all categories except novice category.

### Match Lengths

*Senior, IJF-Junior, Visually Impaired, Brown Belt and Novice Categories*

- Male: 4 minutes
- Female: 4 minutes
- No Golden Score time limit

*Veteran Categories*

- M1 / F1-M6 / F6: 3 minute time limit, plus 2 minutes Golden Score
- M7/F7-M10/F10: 2 minute time limit, plus 1 minute Golden Score

### Competition Method:

*Senior, VI Categories*

Categories having six (6) competitors or greater: Modified Double Elimination with Two Bronzes. All athletes are guaranteed 2 matches. After first loss, players will drop to the losers pool and cross over to fight for bronze medals. The 2 finalists will fight for first and second.

Categories having five (5) Competitors or less: Round Robin Pool (every competitor competes against every other competitor). The order of finish is determined by number of wins, then, if tied, by total points. If tied in wins and points, the winner of the head-to-head competition between the two who are still tied determines the winner. If three or more are still tied in wins and points for any place (first, second, or third), those contestants involved must contest again to determine the order of finish. Points are given to the winner only and shall be based on the highest single score of the winner, after factoring out scores that cancel out each other. Point values are Ippon= 10, Waza-ari= 7, Yuko= 3, win by shido=0. If a contestant withdraws from a division prior to the beginning of his or her final match, the results of all that person's previous matches shall be discarded.



## Round Robin Clarification:

- If Athlete A pulls out before finishing competition against other athletes in the category and does not go out onto the mat, all points won or lost associated with Athlete A are removed. No medal is awarded to Athlete A
- If Athlete A cannot finish competing but goes out onto the mat (field of play), then Athlete B wins and is awarded ippon points. Athlete A receives 0 points.
- If Athlete A, who did not finish competing but went out onto the mat, they are eligible to medal.

## *IJF-Junior, Brown Belt, Novice, Veteran Categories*

True Double Elimination System with winner's and loser's brackets will be used. The winner of the loser's bracket will compete against the winner of the winner's bracket for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place. The first one of these two contestants to have two (2) losses will be placed second; the other will be placed first. The loser of the loser's bracket will be placed 3<sup>rd</sup>. For categories of two and under contestants, round robin will be the method of competition.

## **Seeding**

Senior Only: The top four athletes on the USA Judo Senior National Roster, who are in attendance, will be seeded, provided that they are ranked at A through D levels as follows: A (or B) side: #1 and #4 in one half, #2 and #3 in the other half. A higher seeded athlete will always receive a bye before a lower seeded athlete.

Athletes having the same state affiliation will be placed as far apart in the bracket as possible. Seeded athletes lose their State/Club affiliation for purposes of the draw, i.e., two athletes from the same state or club may meet in the first round if one is a seeded athlete.

IJF-Junior only: The top four athletes will be seeded in each division. If seeded athlete is not present, the other athletes will move up in seeding.

Seeded athletes will be separated as far as possible in their sections of the draw and will receive byes if available. A higher seeded athlete will always receive a bye before a lower seeded athlete.

## **Injury Rule**

Decisions regarding on mat injuries, are to be resolved in accordance with IJF rules; such decisions occurring off the mat or not covered by the IJF rules, are to be made by the coach, the athlete, and appropriate medical staff. If there is not a unanimous opinion among these three individuals, the athlete may not continue (Board-approved October 22, 1998)

## **Multiple Category Entries**

For those athletes who elect to compete in multiple categories, efforts will be made to separate the competition times, but this cannot be guaranteed and a decision may need to be made by the competitor as to the match in which they compete, thereby forfeiting one of the two matches. If categories are competing at the same time, the athlete must move from one category (on mat) to their waiting category with no rest time. If a competitor has matches immediately after one another, they must move to the waiting mat and begin competition immediately with no 10-minute rest.

## Judo Gi / Undergarments / Changing

For all categories, regardless of age, blue and white gi requirement is mandatory. IJF approved labeled gis are not required but fit must meet IJF standards. Back patches are not required.

Appropriate undergarments must be worn by all athletes. Female athletes shall wear under the jacket either, a plain white or off-white T-shirt, with short sleeves, long enough to be worn inside the trousers, or a plain white or off-white leotard with short sleeves. The white T-shirt should be round necked. No marking can be visible when the judogi is done up. Athletes needing to change clothes/judo gi should do so in a restroom, locker room or other area specifically designated for changing.

## Senior Nationals Prize Money Overview

Thanks to the generous donations from members of the USA Judo community, prize money will be awarded for Senior Elite competitions at the 2025 Senior National Championships in Birmingham, AL as follows:

### Senior National Championships

Athletes competing in the Olympic weight divisions in the Senior Elite category will be eligible for prize money for gold, silver and bronze medal finishes.

<b>Eligible Categories (Senior Elite Only):</b>	
<b>Men's 60 kg, 66 kg, 73 kg, 81 kg, 90 kg, 100 kg and +100 kg</b>	
<b>Women's 48 kg, 52 kg, 57 kg, 63 kg, 70 kg, 78 kg and +78 kg</b>	
<b>Place Per Weight Class</b>	<b>Prize</b>
1st	\$500
2nd	\$250
3rd	\$125 (per bronze medal awarded)

Rules to receive funding:

- Medalist must have a rank of at least a brown belt.
- Medalist must have won a minimum of three (3) contested matches, with no byes or no walkovers.

### Kata National Championships

Athletes competing in the Open and U23 divisions at the Kata National Championships will be eligible for a \$500 award (\$250 per athlete) to the winning pair of each of the divisions below:

Under 23 (5 divisions)

- Nage no Kata
- Katame no Kata
- Ju no Kata
- Kodokan Goshin Jutsu
- Kime no Kata

Open (7 divisions)

- Nage no Kata
- Katame no Kata
- Ju no Kata
- Kime no Kata
- Kodokan Goshin Jutsu (\$)
- Isutsu no Kata
- Koshiki no Kata

Rules to receive funding:

Payments will be made to the 10 winning teams in the Under 23 and Open divisions. Each team that finishes first will receive \$500/team (\$250/per individual) with the following stipulations:

- At least two teams must be competing in each category for both the Open and U23 divisions.
- A team may win more than one \$500 prize if they placed first in multiple katas, or in both U23 and Open divisions. There is no prize money reward limit per athlete or team, as long as they enter and place first in a category with two or more teams.
- If there are divisions that do not qualify for awarding prize money due to not having at least two teams competing, any left-over funds from the allocated/donated \$5,000 in prize money will be applied to general kata budget funds and allocated by the USA Judo Kata Committee.

# Awards

## Individual Awards

Gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded for first, second and third places for all divisions. Note: True double events will be awarded one bronze. Double repechage events will be awarded two bronzes.

All senior shiai medals will be awarded following the evening finals.

Athletes must wear either a clean full white judo gi or full team sweats on the awards podium. No additional items may be taken/worn on the podium (flags, hats, pictures, flowers, stuffed animals, etc.).

## Team Awards

Athletes will be awarded points for all categories at the Senior Nationals based on the event as follows:

### 1. Regular and Brown Belt Categories

- a. 1<sup>st</sup> place 750 points
- b. 2<sup>nd</sup> place 450 points
- c. 3<sup>rd</sup> place 150 points

### 2. Novice Categories

- a. 1<sup>st</sup> place 300 points
- b. 2<sup>nd</sup> place 200 points
- c. 3<sup>rd</sup> place 100 points

The team with the most points at the conclusion of the event will be named Team Champion for the 2025 Senior National Championships.

### Criteria:

- Club affiliation will be club listed with athlete's entry in event (as confirmed in their USA Judo profile).
- Athletes who change club affiliation at event then change back after the event has finished will not be counted.
- Any clubs found that have athletes associated to their club where the athlete is not actively participating in dojo activities will lose their team points and will not be eligible to participate in the Team Awards for five (5) years.
- All teams must hold a current USA Judo club membership. Athletes must declare their USA Judo club no later than 7 p.m. Pacific Time on May 23, 2025.
- Champion Banners suitable for hanging in the host club will be mailed to the top three teams after the competition, or if preferred, presented in person at the following USA Judo national event.

**Note: If a member of your club (athlete, coach, official, spectator, parent or attendee) is removed from the venue for violation of the event code of conduct, your club may become ineligible for the team award for this event or the annual team award.**

## USA Judo Team Annual Award

Totals will be comprised from the 2025 Youth National, Senior Nationals, Junior Olympics, and President's Cup. The award will be presented to the winning team at the 2026 Youth Nationals.

## Banners / Signs / Advertisements in Venue

USA Judo restricts the display of banners, flags, advertisements and other related signage in the competition venue without prior approval. Should such items be displayed, owners will be asked by event organizers to take down and/or remove the signage.

## Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP)

The U.S. Center for SafeSport has developed the Minor Athlete Prevention Policies (MAAPP) which USA Judo has adapted to our own sport. The MAAPP is a collection of proactive and training policies comprised of two parts; Education & Training Policy that requires training for certain Adult Participants and the Required Prevention Policies, focused on limiting one-on-one interactions between Adult Participants and Minor Athletes to prevent abuse. The full MAAPP policy and the reporting mechanism for SafeSport infractions can be found at <https://www.usajudo.com/safe-sport>.

USA Judo defines “regular contact with minors” as: “Ongoing interactions during a 12-month period wherein an Adult Participant is in a role of direct and active engagement with any Minor Athlete(s). In the spirit of the moral code of judo, USA Judo requires adult members to self-certify whether or not they considered having “regular contact” with minors based on the aforementioned description. If an adult member is unsure whether or not they have “regular contact” with minors, USA Judo encourages those individuals (and their clubs) to err on the side of caution and complete the SafeSport Training and Certification. USA Judo, in cooperation with USA Judo Clubs and all LAOs, has the right to randomly review and assess members who may have regular contact with minors and require compliance if/when considered necessary by USA Judo Leadership.

The USA Judo SafeSport Handbook can be found at <https://www.usajudo.com/safe-sport>.

## Notice of Possible Testing for Banned Substances

### Senior and Visually Impaired Shiai Only:

I understand and agree that I may be drug tested at any time, that I am subject to and will abide by the USADA Protocol for Olympic and Paralympic Movement Testing, its Annexes, and the USOPC National Anti-Doping Policies, and that any dispute related to the foregoing will be resolved exclusively in arbitration pursuant to the USADA Protocol. Before taking any medications, check the prohibited status at [GlobalDRO.com](http://GlobalDRO.com). Also, be sure to download the Supplement 411 app or visit [Supplement411.org](http://Supplement411.org) to learn how to recognize and reduce the risks related to supplement use. If you have any anti-doping questions, please don't hesitate to call Athlete Express at (866) 601-2632