

# USA Judo Response and Resolution Policy

Last Updated: February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026

## I. REPORTING MECHANISM

### 1. Receiving a Report

#### *U.S. Center for SafeSport Jurisdiction*

Any reports of alleged misconduct or violations of a USA Judo or SafeSport policy should be promptly shared with the USA Judo or reported directly to the U.S. Center for SafeSport. All reported allegations of suspicion of child abuse, including child sexual abuse, must be reported to law enforcement immediately after becoming aware of the allegations, in accordance with federal law, and to the U.S. Center for SafeSport. All reported allegations of emotional, physical and sexual abuse, and sexual misconduct must be reported to the Center immediately upon becoming aware of the allegations. The Center has exclusive jurisdiction over allegations of sexual misconduct and child abuse, including sexual and physical abuse.

Reports can be made to USA Judo or the Center:

1. Online reporting forms
  - a. USA Judo: <https://www.teamusa.org/usa-judo/safe-sport-program>
  - b. The Center: <https://uscenterforsafesport.org/report-a-concern/>
2. Phone
  - a. USA Judo: 719-866-3621
  - b. The Center: 833-587-7233
3. Email
  - a. USA Judo: [aspen.shelton@usajudo.us](mailto:aspen.shelton@usajudo.us)

Both USA Judo and the Center's reporting mechanisms have no associated costs, fees, or other financial barriers attached to submitting a report. Reporters have the option to remain anonymous when filing a report. USA Judo must refer any report that may fall under the Center's jurisdiction within 24 hours of receipt.

### 2. Jurisdiction Notification

USA Judo shall support the Center in all investigations by providing information as needed to the Center and by honoring all Center findings. USA Judo may also conduct investigations if the Center has declined jurisdiction

If a report is submitted to USA Judo and contact information is received in the report, then a jurisdictional notification email will be sent within 72 hours of notice of jurisdiction from the Center. If a report is filed through or moved to USA Judo's Ethics and Grievances Committee then notification and all processes described in the Procedures document (<https://www.teamusa.org/usa-judo/about-us/governance/usa-judo-policies>) will be followed.

### 3. Mandatory Reporting

All Participants, as defined below according to the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code of USA Judo are mandatory reporters under the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code. Any Participant who becomes aware of, suspects, or has reasonable cause to believe that sexual misconduct, child abuse, emotional misconduct, physical misconduct, or a violation of the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP) has occurred must report the concern promptly. Reports of suspected sexual misconduct and child abuse must be made directly to the U.S. Center for SafeSport and to local, state, and or federal law enforcement. Reports may also be made to USA Judo in accordance with its reporting procedures. Failure to report suspected misconduct may result in disciplinary action. Retaliation against any individual who makes a good-faith report is strictly prohibited. More details can be found in the [USA Judo SafeSport Handbook](#) on the USA Judo SafeSport page.

Any individual who is seeking to be, currently is, or was at the time of any alleged Code violation:

1. A member or license holder of an NGB, LAO, or the USOPC;
2. An employee or board member of an NGB, LAO, or the USOPC;
3. Within the governance or disciplinary jurisdiction of an NGB, LAO, or the USOPC;
4. Authorized, approved, or appointed by an NGB, LAO, or the USOPC to have regular contact with or authority over Minor Athletes.

#### **4. Prohibition of Retaliation**

It is a violation of the SafeSport Code and the USA Judo Handbook for a Participant to commit misconduct related to Aiding and Abetting, Reporting, Abuse of Process, or Retaliation, when it relates to USA Judo's or the Center's processes, and Willful Tolerance, all as described in the USA Judo SafeSport Handbook and further defined in the SafeSport Code. These behaviors are additional violations of the Code and will be investigated.

. Any such retaliation can be reported as described below in the same way as any other policy violation. It will be treated as a violation of this Policy and USA Judo's Code of Conduct and may lead to serious consequences including termination of employment or participation for anyone involved in retaliation.

USA Judo has an open-door policy and encourages members to share their questions, concerns, suggestions or complaints in a way and to the people with which they are most comfortable. This means Affiliated Participants have options for how to report any concern about a potential ethical, policy, financial or legal violation.

As set forth in USA Judo's Whistleblower Policy, which can be found here:

<https://www.teamusa.org/usa-judo/about-us/governance/usa-judo-policies>, USA Judo has zero tolerance for retaliation against people who in good faith reports potential ethical, policy, financial or legal violations, or who cooperate with investigations of those reports. That means no Participant may threaten, harass, discriminate against or take any negative employment (where applicable) or participation related action (e.g. discharge, demotion, suspension, non-assignment, negative review) on that basis.

#### **5. Response and Resolution of Reported Allegations**

Upon learning of a complaint, USA Judo will promptly provide relevant information to the U.S. Center for SafeSport (the “Center”) and respond to any requests from the Center regarding a Participant’s eligibility status and/or the existence of USA Judo-imposed temporary measures or safety plans within 72 hours.

USA Judo may implement temporary measures, if necessary, prior to the assertion of jurisdiction by the Center, and will enforce any temporary or permanent measures, including suspensions or bans, instituted by the Center.

USA Judo will cooperate fully and participate as needed in any Center investigation and, at no time, will interfere in, attempt to interfere in, or attempt to influence the outcome of any Center investigation.

If the Center declines jurisdiction over a matter that USA Judo perceives as a serious athlete safety allegation, including emotional or physical abuse or a MAAPP violation, USA Judo may submit the matter to the USA Judo Ethics and Grievance Committee, in which case all procedures set forth in the USA Judo Ethics and Grievance Procedures will be followed, which can be found here:

(<https://www.teamusa.org/usa-judo/about-us/governance/usa-judo-policies>).

USA Judo will enforce any sanctions issued by the Center or USA Judo and will notify relevant individuals, including affected members or clubs, of any imposed sanction. Sanctions resulting in a suspension or ban will be posted on the USA Judo Disciplinary Actions page here

(<https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Judo/About-Us/Governance/Disciplinary-Actions>).

## **6. Data Of Matters Addressed by USA Judo**

On an annual basis and upon request, USA Judo will submit a report to the Center regarding relevant matters that have been addressed by the organization. USA Judo requires all LAOs and member clubs to submit through the USA Judo Reporting Portal, any violation regarding SafeSport, the MAAPP, any USA Judo or club policy, retaliation. USA Judo will send notification via email to all USA Judo clubs 3 times a year to notify them of this requirement and the reporting protocols and procedures.

USA Judo will create and manage an online reporting and retention system that is shared among the Manager of Membership & SafeSport, Director of Compliance, and CEO capturing information reported for any violation that is submitted to the organization. This will show the date submitted, policy/code violated, organization owning jurisdiction, current status, and outcome.

## **7. Questions or Concerns**

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this policy please reach out to the USA Judo SafeSport and Compliance Coordinator, Aspen Shelton at [aspen.shelton@usajudo.us](mailto:aspen.shelton@usajudo.us) or (719) 866-3621.