
2025 USA JUDO JUNIOR OLYMPIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

JUNE 20-22, 2025

CHICAGO SOUTHLAND /
BEDFORD PARK, IL



WELCOME TO THE 2025 USA JUDO NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL JUNIOR OLYMPIC CHAMPIONSHIPS



We are pleased to welcome you to the USA Judo National and International Junior Olympic Championships in Chicago Southland, Bedford Park, IL.

Competition will take place at the Wintrust Sports complex and will serve as the trials for the **2025 U13 (Intermediate) and U15 (Juvenile) Pan American Championships**.

Know Before You Go

Tournament Host:	USA Judo Wintrust Sports Complex Chicago Southland CVB
Sanctioning Organization:	USA Judo
USA Judo Tournament Contact:	719.866.4730, Vaughn.Anderson@usajudo.us 719.339.0937, Eric.Tschudy@usajudo.us
Online Registration:	https://usajudo.sport80.com/public/wizard/e/672
Live Results:	https://usajudo.smoothcomp.com/
Pointable Categories:	All regular categories (IJF-Junior, Cadet, Juvenile, Intermediate, Bantam)
Non-Pointable Categories:	All novice categories
Tournament Site:	Wintrust Sports Complex 5499 W 65 th St Bedford Park, IL 60638
Host Hotel:	Chicago Marriott Midway 6520 South Cicero Avenue, Chicago, IL
Chief Referee:	Robert "Bobby" Donaldson
First-Time Competitors:	Click here to view tips for athletes competing at their first national event.

Key Dates:			
Thursday, June 19 Weigh-In: National Championships (Regular Bantam, Intermediate and Cadet) Referees, Coaches and Technical Officials Meetings	Friday, June 20 Competition: Regular Bantam, Intermediate and Cadet Weigh-In: National Championships (Regular IJF-Junior, Juvenile and All Novice Categories)	Saturday, June 21 Competition: Regular IJF-Junior, Juvenile, All Novice Categories Weigh-In: All International Categories	Sunday, June 22 Competition: All International Categories

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Deadlines and Entry Fees

Deadline	1 st Category (Each)	2 nd Category (Each)	3 rd and Each Subsequent Category
Early Online Registration: May 15 (11:59 p.m. MT)	\$90.00	\$90.00	\$60.00
Regular Online Registration: June 12 (11:59 p.m. MT)	\$110.00	\$110.00	\$80.00

No Walk-Up Registrations

- All registration must be completed online. No paper registrations. International teams, please contact Vaughn.Anderson@usajudo.us for registration information.
- **On-line registrations will not be accepted after June 12 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 to 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 second or third category must be for same athlete.
- Entry fees are non-refundable and non-transferable
- **Absolutely no registrations will be accepted after 11:59 p.m. MT on Thursday, June 12.**
- **All changes must be done onsite after the June 12, 2025 registration deadline.**

Schedule of Events

(Subject to Change)

Wednesday, June 18 – Saturday June 21

7 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Chicago Marriott Midway

Male Unofficial Scales: **Dearborn Room**

Female Unofficial Scales: **State Room**

Thursday, June 19

10 a.m.

Wintrust Sports Complex

Preliminary domestic categories posted for confirmation: usajudo.smoothcomp.com

Note: These will change during the Check-In / Change Period

3 – 8 p.m.

Tournament check-in / changes for all domestic competitors. International competitors also may make changes at this time.

(Check in only if there is a change in category or weight).

NO WALK-UP REGISTRATION

Official Weigh-Ins for National Regular Bantam, Intermediate & Cadet Categories

Chicago Marriott Midway

Male Official Weigh-In: **Chicago A**

Female Official Weigh-In: **Chicago B**

5 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.

Referee Meeting – **Chicago Marriott Midway (Chicago C)**

6:30 p.m.

Technical Officials Meeting – **Chicago Marriott Midway (Chicago C)**

7:30 p.m.

Coach Meeting – **Chicago Marriott Midway (Chicago C)**

Approx. 9 p.m.

Brackets and mat assignments posted for National Regular Bantam, Intermediate and Cadet Categories at usajudo.smoothcomp.com.

Friday, June 20

7 a.m.

Wintrust Sports Complex

Venue doors open to the public

7:30 a.m.

Referees Meeting

Room (**Station Grill (Second Floor)**)

8 a.m.

Welcome Ceremony

8:15 a.m.

Competition Begins (National Regular Bantam, Intermediate and Cadet Categories)

11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Official Weigh-Ins for National Regular IJF-Junior, Juvenile & All Novice Categories

Win Trust Sports Complex

Male Official Weigh-In: (**Room A**)

Female Official Weigh-In: (**Room B**)

Saturday, June 21

Wintrust Sports Complex

7 a.m.	Venue doors open to the public
7:30 a.m.	Referee Meeting Room (Station Grill (Second Floor))
8:15 a.m.	Welcome Ceremony
8:30 a.m.	Competition Begins (National Regular Juvenile, IJF-Junior and all Novice Categories)
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Tournament check-in / changes for all international competitors. (Check in only if there is a change in category or weight). Hall outside of weigh-in rooms.
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Official Weigh-Ins for ALL INTERNATIONAL CATEGORIES Win Trust Sports Complex Male Official Weigh-In: (Room A) Female Official Weigh-In: (Room B)
Approx. 5 p.m.	Categories posted for confirmation at usajudo.smoothcomp.com – ALL INTERNATIONAL CATEGORIES
Approx. 7 p.m.	Brackets and mat assignments posted for all International Categories at usajudo.smoothcomp.com .

Sunday, June 22

Wintrust Sports Complex

7 a.m.	Venue doors open to the public
7:30 a.m.	Referee Meeting
8:30 a.m.	Competition Begins (All International Categories)

NOTE: NATIONAL COMPETITION ATHLETES DO NOT NEED TO WEIGH IN FOR SECOND CATEGORY IF SAME WEIGHT. IF IN A DIFFERENT WEIGHT CATEGORY, ATHLETE DOES NEED TO REWEIGH. ALL INTERNATIONAL CATEGORY ATHLETES NEED TO REWEIGH.

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, including USA Judo's Code of Conduct, Code of Ethics, and Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies.
8. I will be responsible for the sportsmanship of myself and teammates while assisting in maintaining a respectful environment for all participants.
9. I understand that the concluding decision of the officials or event director is final and will accept it with respect and grace.

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.

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	All Event Pass
13+	\$20.00	\$40.00
9-12	\$15.00	\$30.00
8 and Under	Free	Free

Headquarters Hotel

Headquarters: Chicago Marriott Midway

Rate: Double Queen: \$179 per night plus tax
Reservations: [Click here](#) to book online.

Deadline Date: Book by June 2, 2025 to receive discounted rates.

The Chicago Marriott Midway is 1.7 miles from the Wintrust Sports Complex and is just an 7 minute drive from the Chicago Midway Airport (code MDW).

Additional hotel deadline dates:

Courtyard Chicago Midway Airport – June 2, 2025

Fairfield Inn & Suites Midway Airport – June 2, 2025

Hampton Inn Chicago Midway Airport – June 2, 2025

Hilton Garden Inn Midway Airport – June 2, 2025

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

Transportation

Air Transportation: Chicago Midway International Airport (Code MDW) is located approximately 1.7 miles (5 minute drive) from the Wintrust Sports Complex and is serviced with direct flights on Allegiant Air, Delta, Frontier, Southwest, United, and more.

Coach Information

In order to coach matside, all coaches must have a USA Judo coaching credential for the tournament.

Coaches must hold a current **USA Judo coaching membership**, 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 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 per athlete is allowed to coach matside inside the barricade during each match. Coaches who fail to comply with this rule may lose their coach wristband for the day and may be removed from the venue.

Coaches may wear their club or USA Judo warm-up suit with pants reaching down to their shoes which need to be closed-toe (sandals and flip flops are NOT permitted). Coaches may wear a short or long-sleeved t-shirt as long as it has a judo club logo or USA Judo logo on it. Please note that hoodies are NOT permitted. Otherwise, a collared shirt is required. Khaki pants are preferred, but dress jeans (no holes or markings) also are allowed. Please consider that your appearance represents you, your family, your dojo, your athletes, your athletes' families, our sport and USA Judo. All USA Judo national events will be streamed and people from around the world will be tuning in, so please look as professional as possible.

Referee Event Registration

All referees must first register on the [USA Judo Referee Information](https://usajudo.sport80.com) website, 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 and click on Events. Select the 2025 USA Judo Junior Olympic Championships and follow prompts to register.

If you do not register or are not confirmed through the 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 in the USA Judo Junior Olympic Championships if they meet the following eligibility requirements and there is no conflict regarding weigh-in and competition schedules.

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.

National Competition: Friday and Saturday

U.S. citizens and athletes who meet the criteria of the International Judo Federation's (IJF) refugee program, and are currently approved with proof of documentation/acceptance from the IJF to participate in the refugee program, may compete in all categories in the national competition. Please provide a copy of the necessary documents to Connor.Jenkins@usajudo.us.

All athletes must be current members in good standing of USA Judo in order to compete in the national competition regardless of citizenship.

International Competition: Sunday Only

- U.S. Citizens OR
- Athletes with a Permanent Resident Card (Green Card) or any U.S. non-tourist visa OR
- Athletes with an approval letter from an IJF-recognized international federation OR
- Athletes who meet the criteria of the International Judo Federation's (IJF) refugee program and are currently approved with proof of documentation/acceptance from the IJF to participate in the refugee program are eligible to compete in the following categories OR
- 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 submit an invitation letter from their home federation to eric.tschudy@usajudo.us or 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.

All athletes must be current members in good standing of USA Judo in order to compete in the international competition, except athletes with international federation approval letters.

Rank Requirements

- Regular Categories: All ranks eligible
- Novice Categories: White, yellow or orange belts only

Point Roster criteria can be found at <https://www.usajudo.com/athletes/juniors/2025-junior-national-ranking-rosters>.

Novice Eligibility

If a novice athlete has entered and medaled* in a regular category at a USA Judo national event (Youth National Championships, Senior National Championships, Junior Olympic National and/or International Championships or Presidents Cup), the athlete is not eligible to compete in any USA Judo national event novice categories during future tournaments.

Examples:

- If a novice athlete entered and medaled in a regular category at the 2025 Youth Nationals, the athlete is **NOT eligible** for novice categories at future USA Judo national events, including the 2025 Junior Olympic Championships.
- Uncontested categories are exempt.

*If an athlete medaled in a regular category without winning a match, he or she is still allowed to compete in the novice division.

Any club whose athlete violates the above novice eligibility policy may be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to, the withholding of coaching credentials for future national events.

Junior and Cadet World Championships Trials

Eligibility and selection criteria for the 2025 Junior and Cadet World Championship Teams can be found at <https://www.usajudo.com/athletes/juniors/selection-procedures>

Cadet World Championships: (August 27-31, 2025 - Sofia, Bulgaria)

Junior World Championships: (October 23-26, 2025 – Amman, Jordan)

- A total of 10 male and 10 female athletes will represent USA Judo at the 2025 Cadet World Championships.
- A total of 9 male and 9 female athletes will represent USA Judo at the 2025 Junior World Championships.
- The Cadet and IJF Junior Gold Medalists in each division from the 2025 USA Judo Junior Olympic National Championships will be offered the direct qualifier spot in their division.
- The silver medalists in each division will become the first alternates.
- The third-place athletes in each division will become the second alternates.
- The fourth-place athletes in each division will become the third alternates.
- The teams (Cadet World and Junior World) will each also include two male and two female wild cards for both the Cadet and IJF-Junior ages (4 wild cards for the Cadet World team and 4 wild cards for the Junior World team), if applicable. These wild cards will be the two male and two female athletes not directly named to the team via direct qualification with the most points on both the USA Judo National Cadet and IJF Junior rosters as of end of day June 21, 2025 (the rosters will only include points from the national competition). It is not possible to combine points from multiple divisions. In no case can any country have more than two athletes in one division.
- To qualify as a wild card athlete, it is not mandatory to compete at the 2025 USA Judo Junior Olympic National Championships.

To qualify as a wild card athlete, one must have at least 12 points on the USA Judo National Cadet and IJF Junior rosters as of end of day June 21, 2025.

- The wild card members cannot be in the same division.
- If the PJC or IJF changes the number of athletes that can participate in these tournaments, then USA Judo reserves the right to adjust the criteria.

U13 and U15 Pan American Championships Trials

2025 U13 and U15 Pan American Championship Team Selection Criteria

- A maximum of four athletes per age and weight category will represent USA Judo at the U13 and U15 Pan American Championships.
- The Gold, Silver, and Bronze Medalists in each U13 and U15 division from the 2025 USA Judo Junior Olympic National Championships will be offered the direct qualifier spot in their respective weight category.
- A fourth position in each weight category on the U13 and U15 Pan American Championships Teams will be allocated to the highest ranked athlete not named to the team via direct qualification on the USA Judo National Roster in the Intermediate (U13) and Juvenile (U15) categories that is current with all results up and including June 21, 2025 (the rosters will only include points from the national competition). It is not possible to combine points from multiple divisions. In no case can any country have more than four athletes in one division. In order to be eligible for this position, the athlete must hold at least ten (10) points on the roster as of end of day June 21, 2025.
- Should any of the four athletes selected above decline their positions, alternate athletes will be selected from those holding ten (10) or more points on the USA Judo National Roster that is current as of end of day June 21, 2025, in the order of their position on the roster.
- Athletes will only be allowed to compete in the weight division in which they qualified for via direct qualification or via the national ranking roster.

Age Categories and Weight Divisions

Please note that each category is based on the year in which the contestant was born. All weights are in kilograms. For each weight division, the weight range will be over the next lower weight and up to and including the weight listed. Example: Bantam 1, 28 kg – over 23 kg and up to and including 28 kg.

Only one weight category is allowed with the exception of IJF-Junior where open weight can be a second entry or as outlined below for regular bantam categories.

Regular bantam categories: Athletes must select their true age/weight category as their first entry. They may also select as a “bonus” category(ies) one weight up in their true age category and/or move up one age category in their true weight.

For example:

- First category is Bantam 2 female 19 kg (true age/weight)
- Second category is Bantam 2 female 23 kg
- Third category is Bantam 3 female 21 kg

The above would be considered entry into three categories & three entry fees must be paid as outlined in the fee matrix above.

The following age/weight categories will be in use for this year’s event (2025):

CATEGORIES ARE BASED SOLELY ON YEAR OF BIRTH

Regular Categories	
Bantam 1 (Born 2020): Female and Male: 18, 22, +22 kg	Bantam 6 (Born 2015): Female and Male: 27, 31, 35, 39, 44, +44 kg
Bantam 2 (Born 2019): Female and Male: 19, 23, +23 kg	Intermediate (Born 2013-2014) (U13): Female and Male: 28, 31, 34, 38, 42, 47, 52, +52 kg
Bantam 3 (Born 2018): Female and Male: 21, 25, 29, +29 kg	Juvenile (Born 2011-2012) (U15): Female and Male: 36, 40, 44, 48, 53, 58, 64, +64 kg
Bantam 4 (Born 2017): Female and Male: 22, 26, 30, 34, 38, +38 kg	Cadet (Born 2008-2010): Female: 40, 44, 48, 52, 57, 63, 70, +70 kg Male: 50, 55, 60, 66, 73, 81, 90, +90 kg
Bantam 5 (Born 2016): Female and Male: 25, 29, 33, 37, 41, +41 kg	IJF-Junior (Born 2005-2010): Female: 48, 52, 57, 63, 70, 78, +78 kg, Open Male: 60, 66, 73, 81, 90, 100, +100 kg, Open

Novice Categories <i>(For pre-planning purposes only, categories may be determined light, middle and heavy)</i>	
Bantam 1 (Born 2019-2020): Female and Male: 23, +23 kg	Juvenile (Born 2011-2012): Female and Male: 36, 40, 44, 48, 53, 58, 64, +64 kg
Bantam 2 (Born 2017-2018): Female and Male: 23, 27, 31, 35, +35 kg	Cadet (Born 2008-2010): Female: 40, 44, 48, 52, 57, 63, 70, +70 kg Male: 50, 55, 60, 66, 73, 81, 90, +90 kg
Bantam 3 (Born 2015-2016): Female: 27, 32, 37, +37 kg Male: 25, 30, 36, 42, +42 kg	IJF-Junior (Born 2005-2010): Female: 48, 52, 57, 63, 70, 78, +78 kg Male: 60, 66, 73, 81, 90, 100, +100 kg
Intermediate (Born 2013-2014): Female and Male: 28, 31, 34, 38, 42, 47, 52, +52 kg	

The IJF-Junior Category is the same as the International Judo Federation Junior World Championships Category. Athletes may enter if they are born in 2005 through 2010 only.

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.

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, IJF-Junior and Cadet 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 IN WEIGH-IN ROOM.

All athletes competing in the JO International competition on June 22 must weigh-in on June 21. **If an athlete competed during the Junior Olympic National Championships on either June 20 or 21, they will be allowed a 1kg allowance for their JO International competition weigh-in.**

Contingency Weigh In

There will not be Contingency morning weigh-in (CMW) implemented at this event.

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. Requests 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.

A preliminary list of athletes by category/weight will be available at <https://usajudo.smoothcomp.com> on June 19, 2025 at approximately 10 a.m.

Confirmation of Categories / Draw

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 but no later than end of weigh-ins on the day prior to the athlete competing. ONLY an email to Vaughn.Anderson@usajudo.us or face to face interaction with a staff member will be accepted. **NO TEXTS OR PHONE CALLS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** A correction form will be provided to record the correction. Corrections WILL NOT be accepted after the end of weigh-ins on the day prior to the athlete competing.
- Corrections will be processed then the brackets will be created. Brackets will be posted online at usajudo.smoothcomp.com.
- IMPORTANT:** This period is for corrections /confirmations only, 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.

Manager Credentials

Club team manager credentials/wristbands will be considered for USA Judo certified clubs with 8 or more athletes competing on the same day. These credentials are for purposes of assisting athletes to their mats with the correct gi color on only. Coaching, taking photos, etc., will not be allowed. If there are no athletes on deck or in the hole, the club manager should not be inside the competition barricade. These club managers must hold current SafeSport certification and have an up-to-date background screen through USA Judo. The number of club manager credentials/wristbands will be based on the number of athletes a club has competing and issued at the discretion of USA Judo. These may be picked up at the Coach Credentialing table.

[Manager Credentials Application](#)

USA Judo holds the right to deny a credential if the listed requirements are not met.

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 the USA Judo Junior Olympic Championships.

Competition Method: The standard (“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 1st and 2nd 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 3rd. For categories of two and under contestants, round robin will be the method of competition.

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.

Seeding: There will be no seeding except for the IJF-Junior and Cadet categories. The top four athletes will be seeded in each division. If seeded athlete is not present, the other athletes WILL move up in seeding.

Points: Juniors winning medals in the regular IJF-Junior, Juvenile, Cadet, Intermediate, and all Bantam divisions will be awarded points as outlined in the USA Judo Junior Event Point Matrix found at www.usajudo.com.

All athletes must compete in their true age/weight category.

Shime-waza rule: Allowed in regular Juvenile, Cadet, and IJF-Junior categories only.

Kansetsu-waza rule: Allowed in regular Cadet, and regular IJF-Junior only.

It is standard procedure in the United States that contestants competing in Junior divisions up to and including 12 years of age are not allowed to use Shime-waza (chokes) or Kansetsu-waza (arm locks). Cadet age categories (15 yrs. to 17 yrs.) contestants competing are allowed to use Kansetsu-waza. If a participant whose true weight and age is in the Intermediate category and decides to move up to the Juvenile category, he/she will need a waiver/authorization from a parent or guardian to acknowledge that chokes are allowed at the Juvenile level.

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)

Match lengths:

- Bantam (3 minutes / 2-minute golden score)
- Intermediate and Juvenile (3 minutes / no golden score limit)
- Cadet and IJF-Junior (4 minutes / no golden score limit)

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. A decision may need to be made by the competitor as to the match in which they compete, thereby forfeiting the applicable match(es). Please note that, in this scenario, if an athlete withdraws from an event or is unable to compete, the athlete's registration fee for the event will not be refunded. 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. A short-sleeved white t-shirt that is round-necked (no mock turtleneck or v-neck) may be worn under a gi for all genders and categories except in trials events or categories that qualify points which may result in competing internationally. IJF rules will be applied in these categories only allowing white, round-necked t-shirts to be worn by female competitors under their judogi as referenced in the IJF Sport Organizational Rules.

Athletes needing to change clothes/judo gi should do so in a restroom, locker room or other area specifically designated for changing.

Awards

Individual Awards:

Gold, silver and bronze (one bronze) medals will be awarded for first, second and third places for all divisions.

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 Junior Olympics based on the event as follows:

1. Regular Categories

- a. 1st place 500 points
- b. 2nd place 300 points
- c. 3rd place 100 points

2. Novice Categories

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

The team with the most points at the conclusion of the event will be named Team Champion for the 2024 Junior Olympic Championships.

All teams must hold a current USA Judo club membership. Athletes must declare their USA Judo club no later than 7 p.m. CT on June 19.

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 and/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 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

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. Also, be sure to download the Supplement 411 app or visit 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.