

Dear Fellow Members of the USA Judo Community,

I am honored to submit my candidacy for the At-Large Director position for USA Judo. With a deep-rooted passion for judo and a diverse background in athletics, coaching, and financial and strategic management, I am committed to advancing our sport and nurturing its growth at every level.

If elected as an At-Large board member, my number one priority would be to support you, the members of USA Judo. Throughout much of my competitive judo career, I, like many in our community, have felt unsupported and distanced from the organization to which we have all dedicated so much of our time. If elected, I will work for you: communicating transparently, welcoming your concerns and feedback, and advocating for what is important to you, not just to protect my own interests.

Advocating for You

As an At-Large board member, I would be committed to fostering a supportive and inclusive environment that values and nurtures every member of our sport. USA Judo is a vibrant and diverse community that encompasses judoka of all levels and backgrounds, from elite athletes to kata practitioners and from recreational judoka to veterans. Each of these groups plays a vital role in the rich tapestry of judo in the United States and deserves to be valued as such. By ensuring that all segments of our community are recognized and supported, we can build a more unified and dynamic judo environment. This comprehensive approach will not only enhance the experience for all members but also strengthen our overall community, driving us towards greater collective success and growth.

Developing our athletes and coaches is essential for the long-term success and sustainability of USA Judo. As an At-Large board member, I will prioritize creating robust programs and resources that support both current and future talent. By investing in our community, we ensure athletes and coaches are well-equipped to step into the next level and compete on the highest stages. By developing sponsorship programs, we can assist elite athletes financially, supporting their continued representation of USA Judo at the highest levels without having to worry about how to pay their bills.

USA Judo stands at a pivotal moment with the upcoming Los Angeles 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games. This event represents a unique opportunity for our community to showcase our athletes and elevate the profile of judo in the United States. As a member of the board, I will work tirelessly to leverage this opportunity, ensuring that our athletes are well-prepared and that our organization capitalizes on the global stage to attract new supporters and resources.

Those who know me know that I am a vocal advocate for the things I believe in. I believe you deserve to have your voice heard and to feel supported by your community. I will maintain transparent communication via my social media platform to keep you updated and I welcome your comments, requests, and feedback via the same. I would be honored to work to make sure your voices are heard at the highest level of USA Judo's leadership.

My Experience and How It Can Support The Members of USA Judo

- **Chair, USA Judo Athlete Advisory Committee:** In representing and advocating for our athletes, I've ensured their voices are heard and their needs are met. In my role as Chair, I have championed athlete interests and facilitated communication between athletes and the board, ensuring that member welfare and development remain a priority. I will continue to prioritize athlete interests if elected to the USA Judo Board of Directors.
- **Former National Team Member:** As a former member of both the junior and senior national teams, I understand the dedication and resilience required to compete at the highest levels. This insight informs my approach to supporting our current athletes and enhancing our training programs to allow our athletes to perform at their best.
- **Coach and Mentor:** As an active coach and mentor, I am deeply involved in nurturing the next generation of judoka. My commitment to giving back to the judo community is reflected in my efforts to develop talent and promote the spirit of judo through mentorship and coaching.
- **Financial Professional and Board Member:** My background as a financial professional and board member in other organizations has honed my skills in financial oversight and strategic planning. I am dedicated to ensuring that USA Judo remains financially sound and operates efficiently, allowing us to invest in our programs and support our community effectively.

Commitment to the Spirit of Judo

At the heart of my vision for USA Judo is a commitment to the fundamental values of judo—respect, integrity, and perseverance. I believe that these principles are essential to our growth and success, both on and off the mat. By fostering a culture that embraces these values, we can build a stronger, more unified judo community.

In conclusion, I am excited about the opportunity to contribute to the future of USA Judo as a member of the Board of Directors. With a proven track record of leadership, a deep understanding of our sport, and a commitment to financial and organizational excellence, I am well-positioned to help guide USA Judo towards continued success.

Thank you for considering my application for the At-Large Director position. I look forward to the opportunity to serve our judo community and contribute to its growth and development.

In the Spirit of Jita-Kyoei,

Matthew C. Parker

Matthew C. Parker, CFP®

Wealth Advisor, Small Business Owner, and Community Collaborator

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

NFP, an Aon Company

Wealth Advisor (2022 - Present)

- Develop and manage personalized investment portfolios to align with clients' financial goals and risk tolerance.
- Optimize clients' tax situations through strategic planning and advice, ensuring compliance and maximizing tax efficiency.
- Assist clients in creating comprehensive estate plans to manage and distribute their assets according to their wishes.
- Guide clients in establishing a lasting legacy, including charitable giving and wealth transfer to future generations.

DEI Board Member (2023 - Present)

- Advocate for inclusive practices that enhance client experiences and promote diversity within the organization.
- Collaborate on creating and implementing DEI policies that enhance client experiences and promote equity.
- Provide insights and recommendations to improve DEI strategies, ensuring they align with the organization's goals and client expectations.

USA Judo

Chair, Athlete Advisory Committee (2022 - Present)

- Serve as the primary liaison between athletes and USA Judo administration, advocating for athlete interests and rights.
- Work on developing and promoting policies that support athlete welfare and development.
- Oversee the development of programs and initiatives that support athlete development and career transitions.
- Facilitate effective communication between athletes and the organization, ensuring transparency and responsiveness.

The Weekend Athlete

Owner & Operator (2019 - Present)

- Provide coaching services to small businesses in the combat sports sector: i.e., Judo, Brazilian jiu-jitsu, and mixed martial arts
- Identify areas of opportunities in clientele operations and deliver innovative solutions
- Develop and execute community outreach programs

EDUCATION

College of Financial Planning

Graduate Certificate, Master of Science: Personal Financial Planning, GPA: 4.0

University of Colorado Colorado Springs

Bachelor of Arts: School of Public Affairs

