



USAJudo Kata Committee Annual Report

November 2025

Report by: Diane Tamai Jackson, Chair, USAJudo Kata Committee, JudoDTJackson@gmail.com

The Kata Committee appreciates USA Judo support to the expansion to kata at the national and international competition levels. Special thanks to Vaughn Anderson, Aspen Shelton, and Connor Jenkins.

2025 Senior Nationals Kata Championship, Birmingham, AL

- This year, Itsutsu-no-kata and Koshiki-no-kata were added to align with IJF World Kata Championship divisions.
- Junior category age was changed to align with IJF age categories. (i.e., Junior = Under 21).
- Third year for the new national-level categories and divisions continued to successfully attract new (younger and developing) teams.
- Senior Nationals results are the main criteria to determine the USA Kata Team for the PJC Pan-American and IJF World Judo Kata Championships.
- Participation generally continues to increase. Teams report that the 'per team' price encourages additional registration in more katas.

	Intermediate	Junior	Senior	Total performances
2022 (FL)	n/a	n/a	n/a	23
2023 (WA)	11	3	17	31
2024 (CA)	13	5	22	40
2025 (AL)	9	3	25	37

2025 PJC Kata Championship, September 12, Cancun, Mexico

- **Three medals for USA team**
 - 1st place Junior Ju-no-kata: Brynne and Haley Buskerud – Oregon
 - 2nd place Junior Nage-no-kata: David Hammer and Noe Mesa – Texas
 - 2nd place Senior Ju-no-kata: Christine Levine and Lori Latimer – Pennsylvania
- 11 teams (couples) competed on the USA Kata team
 - Five new teams competed for the first time at Pan-American level
- Five kata judge candidates for newly certified or for additional certifications at continental-level. All candidates passed.

USA Kata Team members for 2025 PJC Kata Championship:

- Junior Ju-no-kata – Haley Buskerud (T) / Brynne Buskerud (U) – Oregon
- Junior Nage-no-kata – David Hammer (T) / Noe Mesa (U) – Texas
- Senior Ju-no-kata – Lori Latimer (T) / Christine Levine (U) – Pennsylvania
- Senior Ju-no-kata – Fred Dagdagan (T) / Lee Pasteris (U) – California
- Senior Ju-no-kata – Grace Hossler (T) / Molly Sauter (U) – New York
- Senior Nage-no-kata – Jon Kivel (T) / Lynn Graham (U) – New York
- Senior Katame-no-kata – Doug Newcomer (T) / Jayme Kiraly (U) – Texas
- Senior Katame-no-kata – Mary Wakabashai (T) / Pam Moye (U) – California
- Senior Katame-no-kata – Kristin El Idrissi (T) / Lori Latimer (U) – Pennsylvania
- Senior Kodokan Goshin Jutsu – Fiston Kabuya (T) / Doug Newcomer (U) – Texas

- Senior Kodokan Goshin Jutsu – Jason Beri (T) / Nate Phelps (U) – New York
- PJC Kata Committee members – Barbara Houston Shimizu (secretary), Diane Tamai Jackson
- PJC tournament administrators – Diane Tamai Jackson, Barbara Houston Shimizu
- Judges – Carla Martin, Theodore Schwalm, Karen Nagai, Claudia Smith
- Judge Candidates – David McFall (2), Jeff Guinta (2), Barbara Houston Shimizu (+2), Karen Nagai (+1), Theodore Schwalm (+1).
- Manager – Robert Schab – Oregon

2025 – IJF Kata World Championships, November 7 – 8, Paris, France

- Junior Ju-no-kata – Haley Buskerud (T) / Brynne Buskerud (U) – Oregon
- Senior Ju-no-kata – Lori Latimer (T) / Christine Levine (U) – Pennsylvania
- Senior Ju-no-kata – Fred Dagdagan (T) / Lee Pasteris (U) – California
- Senior Itsutsu-no-kata – Doug Newcomer (T) / Fiston Kabuya (U) – Texas
- Senior Kime-no-kata – Joe Schultz (T) / James Sternick (U) – South Dakota
- Senior Kodokan Goshin Jutsu – Doug Newcomer (T) / Fiston Kabuya (U) – Texas
- Senior Nage-no-kata – Roy Tuua (T) / Josh Lehman (U) – Missouri
- Judges – Frances Glaze, Carla Martin, Eiko Shepherd, Barbara Houston Shimizu
- Judge candidates – Theodore Schwalm (+2), Alain Wilkenson (+1)
- On-site coaches – Dr. Kuniko Takeuchi, Diane Tamai Jackson
- Team manager – Robert Schab, Theo Schwalm

2025 – IJF held two on-line Kata Judge examinations for current IJF judges for Itsutsu-no-kata and Koshiki-no-kata in preparation of the inaugural year for competition of these two katas at the IJF World Kata Championship. Many of the USA kata judges enrolled and passed.

- Name of USA Judge (# certifications achieved of 2 katas):
Eiko Shepherd (2), Diane Jackson (2), Karen Nagai (2), Alain Wilkinson (2), Carla Martin (1), Claudia Smith (1), Theodore Schwalm (1), Frances Glaze (1).

National-level Goals and Achievements:

2024 Actual	2025 Goal	2025 Achievement	2026 Goal
Yes	Successful kata tournament for Senior Nationals	Yes, Met	Same
Yes	Hold 4 Kata Committee meetings	Yes, Met	Same
Yes	Hold at least 6 virtual national discussions or seminars to increase knowledge and consistency	Yes, Met	Same
6	PJC Kata Championship: Seven (7) Senior pairs on USA team & compete, if held in USA	9 – Exceeded; despite not in USA	PJC Kata Championship: 8 Senior pairs to qualify
1	PJC Kata Championship: Two (2) Junior pairs on USA team & compete, if held in USA	2 – Met; despite not in USA	PJC Kata Championship: 2 Junior pairs to qualify
4	PJC Kata Championship: Four (4) judges (max allowed) participate	4 – Met	4

2024 Actual	2025 Goal	2025 Achievement	2026 Goal
4	IJF World Kata Championship: Two (2) Senior pairs on USA team & compete	6 – Exceeded (held in Paris)	IJF World Kata Championship: 6 Senior pairs to qualify
1	IJF World Kata Championship: One (1) Junior pair on USA team & compete	1 – Met	IJF World Kata Championship: 2 Junior pairs to qualify
4	IJF World Kata Championship: Four (4) judges (max allowed) participate	4 – Met	4
0	Three (3) new National-level judges or current National-level judges to increase their number of katas certified in any of the 7 katas	3 – Met	1 (more focus on athletes)
4	Three (3) new or current PJC judges to increase their number of katas certified in any of the 7 katas	6 – Exceeded	1
4	Three (3) new IJF judges or current judges to expand number of katas in any of the 7 katas	8 – Exceeded (due to on-line IJF test opportunity - this year only)	1
n/a	n/a	n/a	Work with USAJudo to update Kata page for public website

Additional activities of note:

- US Kata Judges participated in IJF kata-circuit tournaments in Spain, France, and Germany.
- Nine (9) American judoka attended the Kodokan Summer Kata course in July 2025.
- Monthly kata analysis and discussion via Zoom were continued (started in September 2021). Discussions open to all. Participants include competitors, judges, coaches, instructors, and those just learning the kata. Sessions are 1.5 hours and generally attended by 20 – 30 participants. To be added to notifications, email JudoDTJackson@gmail.com
- Planned development of a Kata Advisory Committee in 2026
- The Kata Committee is the in process of: 1) creating resource list for learning kata, 2) updating the current kata judges list, 3) updating USA Kata Team document, and 4) creating a list of USA judoka knowledgeable in the katas who are willing to support any judo player seeking to learn a kata for promotion, increased judo studies, and competition.

Potential Kata growth areas for USA:

- IJF now maintains Athlete points for kata, based on World Championship, IJF Kata-circuit tournaments, and Continental Championships.
- In July 2026, Canada will host the first Pan-American IJF Kata-circuit tournament in Montreal.
- Expansion of Junior kata teams. USAJudo should consider adding Kata to Junior Olympics or other large internationally attended USAJudo tournament.

2025 Kata Committee (10): Diane Tamai Jackson (chair/athlete representative); Eiko Shepherd (vice-chair); Lisa Capriotti (secretary/ athlete representative); Frances Glaze; Clara Martin; Barbara Houston Shimizu (previous chair); Claudia Smith; Theodore Schwalm (athlete representative); Dr. Kuniko Takeuchi (past chair); and Karen Whilden.