



USA JUDO GENDER POLICY

(amended July 25, 2025)

I. Introduction

USA Judo is the National Governing Body for the sport of judo in the United States and is responsible for regulating the participation of persons as competitors in activities or events sanctioned by USA Judo. USA Judo is committed to increasing diversity and inclusion in the sport of judo within the United States and worldwide. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, religion, gender identity or expression, disability, or sexual orientation or any other protected characteristic as outlined by federal and state laws.

USA Judo has invested significant time in reviewing current literature and discussing transgender participation in the sport of judo. Throughout this process, the core tenets of consideration have been the following:

- Athlete safety and prevention of harm
- Equal and fair competition
- Research-based evidence to support athlete safety and fair play
- Inclusion and non-discrimination
- Right to privacy
- Legal policies, rulings and judgements at the local, state and federal levels within the United States
- Established national and international sport governance guidelines pertaining to transgender athlete participation and policies

USA Judo acknowledges that the science and the legal framework regarding transgender participation in sports is constantly changing and developing.

Combat sports have unique challenges regarding transgender participation due to anatomy and physiology considering, “the physical strength, stamina or physique of average persons of one sex would put them at a disadvantage (or advantage) to average persons of the other sex, as competitors in an event of a gender affected sport”.

II. Applicability

This policy shall apply to all athletes who wish to compete in a competition category (e.g., Male or Female) different than the biological gender assigned to the athlete at birth.

III. Policy

The policy outlined below applies to all U.S.A. Judo sanctioned competitions. Additionally, U.S.A. Judo, its clubs and members are subject to local, state and federal legislation and such legislation supersedes the rules of U.S. Judo.

U.S. Judo is committed to protecting opportunities for athletes participating in sport. U.S.A. Judo will continue to collaborate with various stakeholders with oversight responsibilities, e.g., USOPC, IOC, IPC, IJF, and others to ensure that women have a fair and safe competition environment consistent with Executive Order 14201 and the Ted Stevens Olympic & Amateur Sports Act, 36 U.S.C § 22501, et. seq.

Policy

1. Women's Competition Categories – athletes assigned female at birth.

- Athletes assigned female at birth who have begun hormone therapy (e.g., testosterone) may not compete in any women's categories.
- Athletes assigned male at birth may not compete in any women's categories.

2. Men's Competition Categories

- Regardless of sex assigned at birth or gender identity, an athlete may participate with a men's category, assuming they meet all other U.S. Judo requirements.

Team USA athletes may wish to contact the USOPC's Athlete Ombudsman Office for independent and confidential advice. The Athlete Ombudsman's office is available by email at athlete.ombudsman@usoc.org or by phone at 719-866-5000.

Please note this policy is a living document and is subject to review in light of any scientific or medical development.