

USA Judo Quality Control System (“QCS”) for

National and Sanctioned Events

Last Edited: February 26th, 2026

1. Applicability

This policy applies to ALL individuals covered by the USA Judo SafeSport and Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP), including but not limited to: USA Judo Members, National Office Staff, Board Members, State Association Presidents and Board Members, Sanctioned event organizers and staff, Referees and officials, Coaches, Medical personnel, Volunteers, Independent contractors

National Office Staff are responsible for implementing and communicating the QCS to event organizers. The QCS will be distributed to tournament organizers once they are approved to host a USA Judo sanctioned competition.

2. Compliance Platform and Oversight

Sport:80 ensures compliance as follows:

- Individuals marked as suspended are blocked from obtaining or renewing membership.
- Members cannot register for any USA Judo sanctioned event unless they meet all membership-specific requirements, including:
 - Required SafeSport training
 - Required background screening
- Credentials will not be issued for any event until all compliance requirements are met.
- For mixed-age events (under and over 18), weekly reports are generated to identify expired background checks or SafeSport training. Affected individuals will be notified and must complete requirements before credentials are issued.

Ensuring all individuals with access to restricted areas are registered through Sport:80 prevents access by anyone suspended or banned by the U.S. Center for SafeSport, USA Judo, or the International Judo Federation (IJF) and confirms compliance with all training and screening requirements.

3. Restricted Areas

Restricted areas include, but are not limited to:

- Competition areas
- Warm-up areas
- Weigh-in rooms
- Registration and staff-only areas

Only individuals who have met all SafeSport and background screening requirements may access restricted areas.

4. Registration and On-Site Procedures

4.1 Online Registration Requirement

Athletes with incomplete registrations may complete their registration on site.

Athletes and coaches who did not register online in advance must still register through the official online platform on site. These individuals must also hold proper credentials and/or membership in good standing before they will be allowed entry into any USA Judo Sanctioned Events.

On site registration will occur at a single designated location within the venue, overseen by a SafeSport-certified USA Judo staff member. Potential participants must present valid photo identification if older than 18. Independent contractors must be registered in advance without exception. Contractors who do not meet compliance criteria will be refused event entry.

4.2 Self-Declaration

USA Judo participants will self-declare in their Sport80 membership profiles whether they have regular contact with or authority over minors as defined in the SafeSport 2026 Code. An individual has authority over a minor when, based on the totality of the circumstances, they have the power or right to direct, control, give orders to, or make decisions for that minor. Regular contact refers to recurring, repeated, or ongoing interactions over time with a minor related to sport participation. However, despite self-declaration, USA Judo may disagree with the categorization and may change it based on the U.S. SafeSport definition.

Day-of participants will complete this declaration on the Event Participant Tracking Sheet *after* reviewing the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP), the SafeSport Code, and the USA Judo Handbook.

4.3 Credentialing Requirements

USA Judo encourages sanctioned event organizers to utilize a credentialing process that supports the safety, accountability, and compliance of all participants. Organizers must verify individuals seeking access to restricted areas, including athletes, coaches, referees, officials, staff, medical personnel, volunteers, media, and independent contractors, in alignment with USA Judo SafeSport and MAAPP policies. Implementing credentialing practices helps promote awareness of membership status, required training, background screening, and disciplinary standing, and assists in limiting access by individuals to areas they are not permitted to be during USA Judo activities. If you have any questions please visit the check in desk, or event director.

4.4 Registration / Credentialing Staff

- Obtains acknowledgment prior to credential issuance
 - **Registration Desk Script to be included on sheet with QR Code to USA Judo SafeSport Page.**
 - *(Use verbatim or substantially similar language)*
 - “Before you can participate today, we are required to provide you with USA Judo’s Center-approved Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies, also known as MAAPP, and explain how to report misconduct. You are required to report suspected sexual, emotional, and physical misconduct, or any MAAPP violations. Reports can be made directly to the U.S. Center for SafeSport and local law enforcement when violations include suspected child abuse, including child sexual or physical abuse, MAAPP violation, and sexual misconduct. You may additionally report concerns through USA Judo’s website. Reporting in good faith is required, and retaliation is prohibited. Please review this information (show QR Code) and acknowledge (on the USA Judo Sanctioned Event Participant Tracking Tool) that you have received and understand it before we issue your credential.”

5. Pre-Event Setup

Prior to the event, the Event Organizer must:

1. Obtain the current **Center-approved MAAPP** from USA Judo
2. Prepare communication materials, including:
 - Printed copies or QR code access to MAAPP
 - Posted signage with reporting instructions

3. Identify a SafeSport point of contact for the event

5. Coaches and Referees

5.1 Required Certifications

All participating coaches and referees must be current and in good standing with their USA Judo membership profile and possess all required certifications, including:

- U.S. Center for SafeSport CORE or Refresher Training
- CDC / NAYS / CATT Concussion Training
- Approved NCSI Background Screen through USA Judo
- Valid USA Judo Coaching or Referee Certification

5.2 Verification and Meetings

Sport:80 will notify participants of upcoming certification expirations.

Mandatory pre-event meetings will be held for coaches and referees, during which:

- Credentials will be issued
- Certifications may be re-verified
- MAAPP policies, reporting procedures, and SafeSport updates will be reviewed

Coaches will meet directly with USA Judo staff to verify compliance prior to event start.

Referees will be managed by the Head Referee, with certification verification conducted by USA Judo staff before the event.

5.3 Reserve Referees

Reserve referees must report to the Event Director prior to the event. All training and screening requirements must be fulfilled before participation. Referees who do not meet requirements will not be credentialed or permitted to officiate.

6. Athletes

6.1 U.S. Athletes

All athletes must be current USA Judo members to compete in a USA Judo National Event.

The Sport:80 platform will block registration for athletes who are not in good standing or who are required to complete SafeSport training but are not current.

6.2 International Athletes

Foreign athletes wishing to compete in USA Judo National Events must receive prior approval from the USA Judo National Office.

7. Independent Contractors

Non-member independent contractors who will have regular contact with athletes must complete the requirements below prior to accessing restricted areas. Contractors are registered as members prior to the event and processed through Sport:80 to ensure compliance.

- A background screen
- SafeSport training

8. Medical Personnel, Event Staff, and Team Managers

Assigned medical personnel and trainers (non-emergency), event staff, and team managers (where permitted) must be SafeSport trained and background screened.

- Medical personnel may complete the Health Professionals SafeSport course where applicable.
- Event staff and team managers must complete CORE or Refresher training.

USA Judo staff will verify compliance prior to the event. Individuals without proper certifications will not be permitted to participate.

For last-minute additions or replacements, compliance may be verified using the below before participation is allowed.

- Physical certificates
- Sport:80 platform

9. Volunteers and Media Personnel

Volunteer and media personnel lists are reviewed prior to National Events and checked against the USA Judo Banned and Suspended List.

During technical official and volunteer meetings:

- Attendance is recorded
- MAAPP policies and reporting procedures are distributed

During the event:

- Volunteers and media personnel must wear clearly labeled shirts or badges
- Credentials are distributed by USA Judo staff only after verification

New volunteers or media personnel appearing on-site must:

- Present valid identification
- Be screened against banned and suspended lists
- Verify SafeSport training when required

10. Day-Of Participant Communication Procedure

All steps below must be completed BEFORE participation is permitted.

Step 1: Provide MAAPP Access

Registration staff must provide day-of Participants with access to the Center-approved MAAPP through at least two of the following:

- Printed handout
- QR code or electronic link
- Posted signage with instructions on how to access the MAAPP

Step 2: Communicate Reporting Obligations

Registration staff must explicitly inform day-of Participants that they are required to report suspected:

- Sexual misconduct, including child sexual and physical abuse and misconduct
- Emotional abuse and misconduct
- Physical abuse and misconduct
- MAAPP abuse and violations

Step 3: Communicate Reporting Protocols

Day-of Participants must be informed:

- **Where to report:**
 - U.S. Center for SafeSport and Local, State, or Federal Law enforcement when required

- USA Judo reporting channels, if applicable
- **When to report:** immediately
- **Protection from retaliation:** retaliation for good-faith reporting is prohibited

Step 4: Acknowledgment

Prior to issuing credentials, registration staff must obtain acknowledgment that the day-of Participant:

- Received the MAAPP
- Understands reporting obligations and protocols

Acknowledgment may be documented via:

- Signature or initials
- Electronic acknowledgment
- Credentialing system confirmation

10. Suspended and Banned Individuals

USA Judo maintains:

- A Suspended and Banned List found here: <https://www.usajudo.com/disciplinary-actions>
- A list of individuals under administrative hold from the U.S. Center for SafeSport

Event Directors must check both lists before allowing registration, credentialing, or participation.

11. Communication of SafeSport Policies

USA Judo will provide ongoing SafeSport communication through:

- Pre-event e-blasts to all registered Participants:
 - Athletes
 - Coaches
 - Referees
 - Officials, staff, medical personnel, media, and volunteers

- Communication of Center approved USA Judo MAAPP, Reporting Protocols, and SafeSport Code to all day-of Participants
- Communication materials, including:
 - Printed copies and QR code access to MAAPP
 - Posted signage with reporting instructions
- Annual membership-wide communication each January
- Monthly newsletters on varying SafeSport topics, including MAAPP and reporting information

12. On-Site Visibility

During the event:

- MAAPP and reporting information must remain visibly posted in at least two prominent locations
- Reporting instructions must remain accessible throughout the event

13. Sanctioned Events

Sanctioned events not operated directly by USA Judo must meet identical SafeSport standards.

Appendix D:

Communication Sample to Participants Pre Event:

Dear Participant,

Thank you for registering for or assisting with [EVENT NAME]. USA Judo is committed to providing a safe, respectful, and abuse-free environment for all participants. Please be advised that USA Judo and all USA Judo sanctioned events are required to comply with the USA Judo SafeSport Handbook, Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP) and the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code, and all members, spectators, volunteers, officials, coaches, media, and staff are expected to follow these policies at all times during the event. The U.S. Center for SafeSport has exclusive jurisdiction over allegations of sexual misconduct and child abuse, including sexual and physical abuse.

Printed copies and signage will be available on site. Full policies are available online at the USA Judo website, including:

- **U.S. Center for SafeSport Code 2026:** <https://uscenterforsafesport.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/2026-Safesport-Code.pdf>
- **US Center for SafeSport MAAPP:** <https://maapp.uscenterforsafesport.org/resource/2025-minor-athlete-abuse-prevention-policies/>
- **USA Judo SafeSport Handbook:** https://assets.contentstack.io/v3/assets/blteb7d012fc7ebef7f/blt6a6ca9102f3a99d0/68acbd0e95b27dda59c6b4f0/SafeSport_Handbook_8.25.2026.pdf
- **USA Judo Center Approved MAAPP:** https://docs.usajudo.net/MAAPP/2025/Judo_MAAPP_2025.pdf

MANDATORY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

All individuals over the age of 18 are considered Mandatory Reporters under USA Judo, the U.S. Center for SafeSport, and the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC) policies.

Mandatory Reporters include, but are not limited to:

Coaches, Officials and referees, Instructors and trainers, Medical personnel, Event staff, Club administrators, Board members, Any adult with authority over or frequent contact with athletes

Mandatory Reporter Obligations

- Mandatory Reporters **MUST** report suspected child abuse or sexual misconduct immediately to local, state, and or federal law enforcement immediately and to the U.S. Center for SafeSport.
- Reporting is required even if the information is secondhand. You should NOT investigate.
- Reporting is required regardless of where or when the conduct occurred, even if in the past.
- Internal reporting alone does **NOT** satisfy the obligation. You must also report to local law enforcement and/or child protective services.

Failure to report as a Mandatory Reporter may result in disciplinary action, including suspension or permanent ineligibility.

Reporting Responsibilities and Expectations (All Participants)

All individuals have a responsibility to report suspected misconduct. Reports may be submitted formally or anonymously. Retaliation for making a good-faith report is strictly prohibited.

If you witness, suspect, or become aware of misconduct, you are expected to report it as soon as possible, even if you are unsure whether it rises to the level of a violation.

If there is immediate danger, contact local law enforcement or emergency services first, then submit a SafeSport or USA Judo report as outlined below.

Report to the U.S. Center for SafeSport

SafeSport Reporting Portal:

<https://uscenterforsafesport.org/report-a-concern/>

24-Hour Helpline: 833-587-7233

The concerns below can be reported to **U.S. Center for SafeSport**, this is not a comprehensive list. For more information, please read the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code 2026 and the U.S. Center for SafeSport MAAPP. The U.S. Center for SafeSport has exclusive jurisdiction to investigate reports and allegations of sexual misconduct, including child abuse, child sexual and physical abuse and any conduct related to such allegations.

1. **Sexual misconduct**, including child sexual abuse and any conduct reasonably related to such allegations
2. **Criminal charges or dispositions** involving child abuse or sexual misconduct

3. **Misconduct related to reporting**, when the underlying allegation involves child abuse or sexual misconduct
4. **Aiding and Abetting, Abuse of Process, or Retaliation**, when it relates to the processes of the USOPC, USA Judo, U.S. Center for SafeSport, a club, or any other organization under the Center's jurisdiction.
5. **Any other SafeSport Code violations** within the Center's jurisdiction

Important Reminders

- Reports may be made anonymously
- You do **not** need proof to make a report, reasonable suspicion is sufficient
- An Adult participant that learns of information or reasonably suspects that a child has suffered an incident of child abuse, including child sexual abuse must immediately
 - a. Make a report to law enforcement **AND**
 - b. Make a report to the U.S. Center for SafeSport **AND**
 - c. Comply with any other applicable reporting requirements under state law.
- Failure to report may itself be a policy violation

Retaliation is strictly prohibited and will be treated as a serious violation. View the USA Judo Whistleblower Policy:

https://assets.contentstack.io/v3/assets/blteb7d012fc7ebef7f/blt6b40cea66404fa29/692f191949709b67c4ebd1a6/Whistleblower_Policy_11.21.2025_CURRENT.pdf

Report to USA Judo

USA Judo Reporting Portal:

<https://www.usajudo.com/safe-sport/usa-judo-reporting>

Phone: 719-866-3621

Any report can be reported to **USA** Judo; this is not a comprehensive list. For more information, please read the USA Judo Handbook and USA Judo MAAPP:

1. **Non-sexual child abuse**
(Note: The U.S. Center for SafeSport retains exclusive jurisdiction over child abuse and sexual misconduct cases.)
2. **Emotional or physical misconduct**, including stalking, bullying, hazing, or harassment

3. **Criminal charges or dispositions** not involving child abuse or sexual misconduct
4. **MAAPP or other proactive policy violations**

Thank you for helping us uphold the highest standards of athlete safety and integrity. Your awareness and cooperation are essential to ensuring a safe environment for everyone involved in **[EVENT NAME]**.

Sincerely,

[Event Organizers / USA Judo]