



# **2025 USA Judo Sanctioned Events Standard Operating Procedures and Sanctioning Rules and Regulations for Judo and Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Events**

Updated 11/1/2024

## Overview

In 2024, USA Judo sanctioned 139 events, including 20 point events. This document will provide instructions, polices, and procedures for both point and non-point USA Judo sanctioned events in 2025.

This document describes the sanctioning program and gives details of how to apply for, obtain, and fulfill the obligations of a sanction in the year 2025.

USA Judo sanctioning representatives are not able to attend all individual tournaments and clinics. Therefore, USA Judo cannot assume the function of directing, policing or overseeing the individual operations and procedures of these events. It is understood that each tournament and clinic site is different and presents unique situations concerning administration, officials, mats, equipment, competitors, divisions, etc. However, the event organizer/director, in return for being awarded the sanction, agrees to abide by these terms and conditions to the fullest extent possible.

**Failure to abide by the criteria and/or fulfill requirements of a sanction may nullify the sanction and/or cause penalties for organizers including, but not limited to, the opportunity to sanction future events. The policing of sanctioned events will increase in 2025 to ensure safety, liability, compliance and good business practices**

All USA Judo sanctions will be awarded ONLY for judo and Brazilian Jiu Jitsu (BJJ) disciplines. Events that combine other martial arts competitions in the same venue shall not receive sanction nor insurance coverage from USA Judo. This insurance coverage available to the individuals, clubs, and event organizers is limited to the sport of Judo and BJJ and USA Judo clubs/member organizations in good standing only. Member organizations are defined herein as contributing organizations and registered state organizations.

Please note that the American Judo Alliance Agreement between USA Judo and The U.S. Judo Association and U.S. Judo Federation ended in March of 2023. As such, only USA Judo members are eligible to compete in 2025 USA Judo sanctioned events. Members from the American Traditional Jujutsu Association (ATJA) are also eligible to participate in 2025 USA Judo sanctioned events.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is a sanction and what does it cover?

A sanction is defined as *to give permission or approval for an action*. Related to

USA Judo, a sanction provides insurance coverage for USA Judo clubs and member organizations in good standing with a minimum standard for conduct at an event that is focused on the safety of participants, administrative efficiencies and mandates required by USA Judo, the U.S. Center for SafeSport and/or the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee. USA Judo clubs and member organizations are in good standing if:

- The club or member organization holds a current USA Judo membership
- The club or member organization's primary point of contact must also be current with his or her individual membership, USA Judo Coaching Certification, Background Screen, SafeSport Training and Concussion Awareness Training

Through USA Judo's insurance provider, a paid sanction will provide general liability insurance coverage for tournament organizers and volunteers as well as limited property damage coverage (subject to coverage limits and conditions under the policy). The owner of the facility where the event is held may be included as an "Additional Insured" upon submission of the appropriate form and approval of the insurance carrier, at no additional cost. All contestants must hold a valid USA Judo individual membership. These memberships need to be current through the end of the sanctioned event. Event directors with an approved USA Judo sanction will receive a Certificate of Insurance when requested; discounted credits for the Smoothcomp competition management system; opportunity to purchase event signage, medals and merchandise from USA Judo partners; event organizing materials (pending advanced deadlines); access to National Office staff for consultation; listings on the Calendar/Event sections of USA Judo's Membership Platform, Sport:80, and USA Judo's website. In addition, point tournaments also will receive one promotional post on Facebook/Instagram. Tournament directors are responsible for providing all details and graphics for the post.

### Who is eligible to request a sanction from USA Judo?

USA Judo clubs and registered USA Judo member organizations in good standing, as defined above, may request a sanction from USA Judo. In addition, the sanctioned event must follow the USA Judo Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP). Finally, an event organizer who has previously sanctioned a USA Judo event, must be in good standing by having fulfilled the obligations of a previously awarded USA Judo sanctioned event.

### When is a sanction request required?

A USA Judo Sanction Request should be made when there is an event hosted by a USA Judo club that is out of scope of the club's day-to-day activities and/or if they are hosting an event at a location outside of the club.

If a USA Judo Club wants to host a "friendly" competition between other local clubs and competitors, within the capacity of the club determined by the local fire marshal and what is deemed safe, no sanction fee is required, but a sanction will be required to be on record for potential injury and insurance purposes. However, the USA Judo Standard Operating Policies and Procedures will remain in effect for club events involving members from other clubs, including the requirement for USA Judo individual membership for all participants.

## Requirements and Application Procedures for Obtaining a Sanction

Only USA Judo registered judo or BJJ clubs and member organizations in good standing may apply for a sanction. All USA Judo Sanction Requests must be submitted through the registered club or group membership profile within Sport:80: [usajudo.sport80.com](http://usajudo.sport80.com). **Paper sanction submissions and e-mailed applications are not accepted.** USA Judo staff members are available to assist with this process if/when necessary. The online process will allow event organizers to pay for the sanction online through the same secure credit card processing system as memberships. The online process also will allow for the sanction to be approved, sanction number provided, and the event automatically posted on the Sport:80 Platform and, subsequently, on the USA Judo website. Payments for non-point events must be paid in full at the time of the sanction submission/approval. Point events may pay a 50% non-refundable deposit and must pay the other 50% no later than 60 days prior to the sanctioned point event. If a point event is applied for less than 60 days prior to the event, the full sanction payment will be due at the time of submission prior to approval.

To receive a point event sanction, a properly completed and signed Application for Sanction, draft copy of the entry form, draft copy of the general information sheet, draft copy of the waiver and release form, and appropriate administrative fee, should be submitted on-line via the Sport:80 Platform by December 9, 2024. Any non-point sanction needs to be submitted as far in advance as possible **and no later than 30 days prior to the event.** Any non-point sanction requests submitted within the 30-day window will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and may incur late fees. Failure to have a sanction form and payment in the National Office no later than 30 days prior to the event may void any insurance coverage of the event, and the club or member organization will assume all liabilities associated with this action. The entry form, the general information sheet and the waiver and release form will be reviewed for accuracy, completeness, conflict with other events, and compliance with all other sanction requirements. If there are problems, the event organizer will be informed of any modifications that are required. When the entry form, general information sheet, and waiver and release form are in full compliance with the sanction requirements, the sanction application is properly completed and signed, and appropriate fees are paid a sanction will be issued and liability insurance coverage will be in effect.

As USA Judo Membership and event participation continues to grow, a variety of factors may be used in determining the allocation of point events including, but not limited to:

- Number of applicants in a geographic region
- Dates of events in relation to other point tournaments, sanctioned events or national events
- Past history hosting successful tournaments and fulfilling event obligations
- Size, quality and safety of venue
- History of event participation

Geographic location and event dates will be considered when awarding point events to ensure that there isn't any unintentional regional bias.

The sanction number(s) and name(s) of the sanctioning authorities shall be printed on the entry form when it is distributed to the public. A final copy of the entry form as well as any corrected forms that are distributed to the public must be submitted to USA Judo for their permanent records. The applicant agrees to abide by all the terms and conditions for sanctioned events. These terms and conditions are listed below and are attached to the sanction application. They will be provided once again to the organizer when the sanction is issued. All sanctioned events by USA Judo will be posted on its website within one week of sanction approval

Certificates of Insurance to third parties for sanctioned events can be secured free of charge from the National Office when requested.

## Terms and Conditions for All USA Judo Sanctioned Events

### Limited Modifications

Sanctions may be issued for events which have the following modifications to the IJF rules:

### Mat/Safety Area Dimension

Regulation size contest area should be used whenever possible (8-10m x 8-10m competition area). If sufficient mat space is not available, a smaller competition area (minimum of 6m x 6m) may be used for junior and veteran categories with pre-approval from USA Judo. The mats should be firm under foot, have the ability to absorb sufficient shock, and have a surface that is non-binding and free of folds and gaps. All mats should be inspected before competition or practice begins to ensure a safe competition surface.

- A 4-meter safety area for all categories between mats and 3-meter outside safety area perimeter is required. Competition areas may range in size from 6 x 6 meters to 10 x 10 meters depending on ages, venue size and number of competitors.
- USA Judo National Championships must have a 4-meter safety area between mats.
- Pan American Judo Confederation (PJC) & International Judo Federation (IJF) rules will apply for PJC & IJF Sanctioned Events.

### Shime- and Kansetsu-Waza Age Limits

It is standard procedure in the United States that contestants competing in Junior divisions up to and including 14 years of age are not allowed to use shime-waza (chokes) or kansetsu-waza (arm locks). Cadet (15-17 year-olds) competitors are allowed to use kansetsu-waza. All senior divisions (including brown belts) are normally permitted to use shime-waza and kansetsu-waza. Juniors who elect to enter senior divisions must understand that they do so at their own risk and should be allowed the use of shime-waza and kansetsu-waza. Shime-waza or kansetsu-waza in junior novice-only divisions is prohibited. Shime-waza is allowed for senior novice divisions. Please see the below graphic for chokes and arm lock rules for all categories:

<u>Categories</u>	<u>Chokes</u>	<u>Arm Locks</u>
Junior Novice Divisions	No	No
Senior Novice Divisions	Yes	No
Intermediate (11-12)	No	No
Regular Juvenile (13-14)	Yes	No
Regular Cadet (15-17)	Yes	Yes
Regular IJF Junior (15-20)	Yes	Yes
Senior Elite (18-59)	Yes	Yes
Veteran (30-59)	Yes	Yes
Veteran (60+)	No	Yes

Event Organizers must specify in the sanction application and on the event information sheet if any of the above or other rule changes will be in effect at the event.

## Gender Categories

Mixed gender categories are allowed for ages up to and including 10 years of age, as of the event date.

## Transgender Policy

The USA Judo Transgender Policy can be found [here](#).

## Religious Headgear

USA Judo is responsible for creating and abiding by rules that protect the safety of competitors to the extent possible. USA Judo has determined that it will review requests to wear religious headgear during competitions submitted on a case-by-case basis no less than five (5) days in advance of the actual event taking place.

The main points of consideration for these requests are as follows:

1. Can the wearing of headgear, religious or any other kind, create a safety issue for the individual wearing the headgear and/or his/her opponent?
2. Does the wearing of the headgear give the person wearing it an unfair advantage or disadvantage?
3. Is the desire to wear headgear by an athlete due to their religious practice(s) or due to the advice of a medical doctor for safety purposes?

If the answer to questions No. 1 and No. 2 is “no” as determined by USA Judo, and the answer to question No. 3 is “yes,” USA Judo will allow the wearing of headgear.

USA Judo reserves the right not to allow headgear of any kind if the safety of any athlete may be put into jeopardy by the wearing of headgear or for any reason deemed as detrimental to the sport of judo in the United States.

## Participant Criteria

### **ONLY CURRENT USA JUDO INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS CAN COMPETE AT USA JUDO SANCTIONED EVENTS.**

This is extremely IMPORTANT as violation of this may nullify an event’s sanction. The reason is that, while general liability insurance is provided by the organization sanctioning the event, sport participant accident insurance follows the individual member for personal injury claims sustained at a USA Judo sanctioned event. If a participant is not an individual member in good standing and/or cannot produce proof of a current USA Judo membership, a membership may be purchased on site via the on-line Sport:80 membership registration platform. USA Judo offers an Event-Only membership on Sport:80. Event-only memberships are valid only for tournaments (not clinics, camps, etc.). Event organizers must confirm and have proof that all participants must have USA Judo membership to ensure participant accident insurance coverage.

If an event is open to non-U.S. citizens, all participants must be either USA Judo members OR members of their respective National Governing Body or Federation. Please note that non-U.S. citizens will not receive USA Judo roster points unless they have been awarded refugee status by the International Judo Federation.

For individuals representing a foreign delegation who do not hold USA Judo memberships, an approval letter must be received from the respective National Federation **by the USA Judo National Office**. Any official correspondence with a foreign judo National Governing Body must follow the appropriate international policy of going through USA Judo and

USA Judo sanctioned events should NOT directly invite foreign competitors to compete at their event. This approval letter will show as proof that the athlete is in good standing with their federation which includes amateur status and insurance coverage.

All participants, regardless of citizenship must have a minimum limit of \$25,000.00 in accident medical benefits. Individuals who do not meet this requirement through their federation must purchase a USA Judo membership. **THIS IS AN INSURANCE COMPANY REQUIREMENT AND FAILURE TO COMPLY MAY AFFECT THE LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR THIS EVENT AND AN EVENT'S RIGHT TO OBTAIN FUTURE SANCTIONS.**

Procedures must be established to check that each participant is a USA Judo member or member of an approved judo organization having insurance coverage that has been approved by USA Judo. Participants will be allowed to register as a member of USA Judo prior to the start of any sanctioned event. These membership registrations will be covered by accident medical insurance for Judo/BJJ. It is preferred that these members register as USA Judo members utilizing the online Sport:80 Membership Platform. If electronic membership access is not available, USA Judo must be notified and the official conducting the event must send all new USA Judo memberships to the National Office, electronically, within **FIVE** business days of the completion of the event. This is important to confirm insurance coverage. No membership registration may be taken once registrations have closed. A tournament official must verify that all membership registration procedures are followed for any new membership issued at the event. Failure to monitor and confirm appropriate individual memberships may result in a voided sanction, especially if the non-insured person is injured as the injury liability expenses will be the responsibility of the event organizer for not confirming membership of all participants as there will then be no coverage through USA Judo.

#### SafeSport Requirements:

No individual listed on the USA Judo Banned/Suspended list (athlete, coach, referee volunteer, media/vendor, etc.) may participate in the event in ANY capacity. The Banned/Suspended list can be found [here](#).

All USA Judo Members over the age of 18 must complete SafeSport training and comply with yearly refresher courses to keep their membership active.

USA Judo has worked with Sport:80 to create a public list of USA Judo members in good standing which can be found [here](#). Tournament organizers must verify that all individuals who are required to hold a valid USA Judo membership to participate in the event (athletes, coaches, referees, event staff) are present on the public membership list.

Members who are not on this list are ineligible to participate at a USA Judo sanctioned event in any capacity. Members could be in either of these statuses due to circumstances that include, but are not limited to, disciplinary actions, failure to take the mandated SafeSport training, or have outstanding fiduciary responsibilities to USA Judo. This is a live list that will update as soon as someone becomes a member, lapses in membership, or their status changes. Exceptions to this rule may include international competitors who have confirmed with the USA Judo National Office that all members of their delegation are in good standing. Event organizers must compare their list of participants (volunteers, coaches, athletes, etc.) against BOTH the current membership and disciplinary action lists.

- Individuals who are assisting with event organization and support must be listed on USA Judo's Participant Tracking Spreadsheet found in Appendix B of this document and online here. This includes table officials, volunteers, media/vendors etc. This tracking spreadsheet must be sent to USA Judo within five business days following the close of the event to [events@usajudo.us](mailto:events@usajudo.us). Failure to provide this list in a timely manner may result in fines and/or penalties for future sanction requests, including not sanctioning future events.
- Information about the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy (MAAPP) and SafeSport Reporting information must be shared with participants. Pre-registered participants should first be notified WITHIN 10 days prior to the start of the tournament and posted during walk-up registration, if applicable, and within the venue during the event. A short version of the MAAPP and flyer with a SafeSport QR Code is available in Appendices B and C and online [here](#).

These flyers should be visible throughout the event venue, pointing people to the USA Judo website for more information and the reporting process.

### Properly Designed Entry Form

A properly designed entry form must be used. When possible, USA Judo encourages the use of the Sport:80 or Smoothcomp platforms for registration. Smoothcomp event pages may be used in place of a document-form entry packet. To approve the sanction request, USA Judo must have access to see the Smoothcomp page prior to publication. Smoothcomp event pages may be used in place of a document-form entry packet.

The entry form and/or Smoothcomp event page must contain at a minimum:

- Adequate space for participant's personal information.
- Ability to record verification of current membership and insurance.
- Categories of competition (Junior, Senior, Veterans, Team, Shiai, Kata, etc.) including eligibility requirements for each category.
- Verification of USA Judo Membership by requesting membership ID number.
- Divisions within each category: age, age-weight, weight only, skill level (white, brown, black belts etc.). If divisions are to be combined or split up based on the age and/or weight range of the entrants, state this in a prominent place.
- Sanctioned events may allow participants in junior categories to compete in both their true age and weight category as well as one age/weight category higher than their true category. The event organizer has the final determination as to whether or not the weight disparity is cause for a safety concern, which may happen from time to time.
- Warning, Waiver and Release of Liability Clause - The standard release approved by USA Judo, and its insurance company must be signed by all participants. This release may be made part of the tournament entry form or it can be signed separately. In the case of minors, it must additionally be signed by the minor's parents or legal guardian.
- USA Judo insurance coverage requires the tournament or clinic director to retain the signed release for five years after the completion of the event and if necessary, provide the insurance company and/or USA Judo with this document in the event of a participant injury claim. USA Judo must be included on all waiver forms.
- The competition/elimination system that will be used (e.g., Single, Double, Modified Double, Repechage, Double-Repechage, Pool).
- The schedule of events, including registration, weigh-in, roll call, and competition times.
- Any IJF or USA Judo rules that are modified for local or regional competition.
- Any BJJ rules that are modified for local or regional competition.
- Sanction number(s) and name(s) of the organization (s) issuing the sanction.
- Appropriate undergarments must be worn by all athletes. Female athletes shall wear under the jacket either a plain white or off-white t-shirt, with short sleeves, long enough to be worn inside the trousers, or a plain white or off-white leotard with short sleeves. The white t-shirt should have a round neck. No marking can be visible when the judogi is done up. Rashguards or t-shirts are allowed to be worn under the judogi for all genders, during USA Judo sanctioned domestic events.
- Statement that any athlete needing to change clothes/judogi should do so in a restroom, locker room or other area specifically designated for changing. Signage should be placed in the venue outlining this policy. A template is attached for your use on the last page.

Contest Rules of the International Judo federation (IJF), BJJ or any rules modifications by USA Judo to be followed for all sanctioned events. If there are any rules, planned deviations or exceptions to the standard rules other than for unique safety considerations at local events, they must be approved prior to the date of the event.



### Emergency medical facilities, personnel and injury reports

**A medical doctor and/or other athletic trainer must be in attendance at all tournaments.** A medical area with emergency supplies and ice must be provided. The telephone number of the local ambulance service and the location of the nearest hospital should be known. It is also *highly* recommended that an AED be in the competition venue or close by and easily accessible within the facility hosting the event.

USA Judo has partnered with Premier Sports Medicine as a resource for sanctioned event organizers to obtain athletic trainers in their local area. If you are interested in obtaining services from Premier Sports Medicine please notify [eric.tschudy@usajudo.us](mailto:eric.tschudy@usajudo.us). As an alternate option, [Go4.io](http://Go4.io) connects sports organizations with on-demand certified athletic trainers and allows organizers to post jobs for free and pay only when jobs are completed with no contracts or minimums required. For more information contact [CONTACTUS@GO4.IO](mailto:CONTACTUS@GO4.IO).

It is imperative that event and medical personnel document every injury that is treated, whether it is a bloody nose or a more severe injury that may require transport by ambulance. These injury reports must be submitted to USA Judo with the additional required post-event paperwork.

### Qualified mat officials should be used

USA Judo certified referees must be used on every mat. If a sufficient number of certified referees are not available, then one certified referee should be assigned to supervise each mat area. Local and regional referees must be certified by the USA Judo Referee Committee or an IJF A-certified USA Judo Referee. The regional and local referee certifications will include a current USA Judo membership with completed SafeSport training, background screen and concussion training. Exceptions are made regarding SafeSport and background screening for any referee under 18 years of age.

### Additional equipment and facilities

The following additional equipment and facilities are recommended for all tournaments:

- Each contest should be equipped with scoreboards that are visible to the spectators facing the scoring tables, stopwatches for both contact time and Osae-Komi, gongs or bean bags for indicating ending time,
- Blue and white belts (sashes) for the competitors, if blue and white gi is not required. It is recommended that for senior level categories, a blue and white gi is mandatory.
- A suitable head table and public address system should be available.
- Every attempt should be made to create a restricted area for the competition. A restricted area(s) is that area limited to players, officials and other authorized personnel. The general public should be restricted from this area. Specifically, this area should include the competition areas and limiting their access only to officials and athletes currently competing, “on deck” or “in the hole.”

***These guidelines are established as minimum standards. Any action taken by the tournament director to improve or enhance the quality of the tournament and provide a greater level of safety for the participants and spectators is highly encouraged.***

### Tournament report

Within ***two weeks*** after the competition or the event, a report should be filed electronically with USA Judo. This report shall include the “Report of Sanction Event” form as well as copies of the “Injury Report” form, a copy of the entry form, copy of the competition brackets, “Participant Tracking Spreadsheet” and waiver and release form for each

injured person. The event director is required to keep all copies of participant's entry forms and signed waivers for no less than five (5) years. Failure to follow this procedure could jeopardize future sanctions and/or may result in increased future sanction fees. USA Judo continues to experience challenges with event directors submitting their information within this two-week window. Any paperwork received after the two-week deadline will be charged \$10/day late fee. This fee must be paid upon submission of required reporting. Organizers who have unpaid fees will not be eligible to sanction future events.

Membership Registration & Payments Within two weeks after the competition of the event, all membership registration forms, and money collected should be forwarded to USA Judo's National Office. This can be alleviated by directing individuals needing memberships to register on the Sport:80 website: [usajudo.sport80.com](http://usajudo.sport80.com). Fines will be assessed as noted above for paperwork submitted after two weeks.

### Coaches

All coaches receiving coaching credentials must be in good standing meaning they have USA Judo Membership, USA Judo Coach Certification, Background Screen issued through USA Judo's membership platform, SafeSport Certificate and concussion training certification. They must also be listed on USA Judo's public coach list found [here](#). Any coach who does NOT have ANY of these credentials is NOT in good standing and should NOT be coaching matside. It is helpful to monitor this by mandating that coaches are required to wear their current USA Judo coaching badge.

# Non-Point Sanctioned Events Benefits, Costs and Competition Management System

## Add event-only membership paragraph here.

### Event Categories

#### **In Club Event**

#### **Local Event**

#### **Regional Event**

### Benefits & Costs

#### • **In Club Events**

- May be a competition, clinic or camp
- A “no cost sanction” will be provided if event happens within a currently registered USA Judo club in good standing during normal operating hours
- Benefits include:
  - Liability insurance provided as part of USA Judo Club Membership
  - Local, friendly matches easier to implement
  - No certified referees necessary (coaches may serve as referees)
- Costs include:
  - Minimal costs are incurred when hosting an in-club event, including medals/awards (preferred pricing available with USA Judo Vendor) and discounted Smoothcomp competition management credits should the Smoothcomp competition management platform be utilized.

#### • **Local Event** (typically within one state and 150 miles or 2.5 hours driving time)

- May be a competition, clinic or camp
- Benefits include:
  - Sanction provides general liability coverage for event organizer and co-insured (venue)
  - Event published on USA Judo Website Competition Calendar Page and Calendar/Events section of USA Judo Membership Platform (Sport:80)
- Mandatory costs include:
  - If outside of a dojo and/or members from more than 2 other clubs attend in club event, sanction fee of \$100
- Elective costs include:
  - Competition management Smoothcomp Credits offered at a discount per credit/competitor of \$0.75/competitor
  - Preferred pricing on medals/awards, signage and apparel with USA Judo Vendors
  - Referee expenses – to include at least one meal during the event day(s) and one or more of the following:

- stipend/per diem
  - meals
  - transportation (eg. Airfare/ground transportation to the event)
  
- **Regional Event** (typically involves participants from more than one state)
  - May be a competition, clinic or camp
  - Benefits include:
    - Sanction provides general liability coverage for event organizer
    - 100 Smoothcomp Competitor Credits included in sanction fee (if desired)
    - Event published on USA Judo Website Competition Calendar Page and Calendar/Events section of USA Judo Membership Platform (Sport:80)
  - Mandatory costs include:
    - Sanction Fee of \$150
    - Referee expenses – to include at least one meal during the event day(s) and one or more of the following:
      - stipend/per diem
      - hotel
      - transportation (eg. Airfare/ground transportation to the event)
  - Elective costs include
    - Preferred pricing on signage, medals/awards, event apparel with USA Judo Vendor
    - Additional Smoothcomp Credits sold at a discount of \$0.65/competitor

Competition Management - Independent evaluator as mutually agreed upon between USA Judo and Event Organizer to monitor event and ensure all necessary policies and requirements are implemented.

# Point Tournaments Benefits Costs and Competition Management System

- **USA Judo Point Tournaments**

- These events will award USA Judo member participants with points that will be shown on the USA Judo National Roster which may be used to determine qualified athletes for international teams. To apply earned points on the USA Judo Roster, point-winners must be USA Judo members and prove their U.S. citizenship BEFORE the completion of the point event at which they won their points. While it is preferred that an event host be responsible for confirming participants' membership and citizenship, if an event organizer is NOT able to cross reference the Sport:80 membership database themselves to do this, they must NOT have walk up registration and close registration five business days before an event so that the USA Judo staff may cross reference the participation list to make sure everyone is in good standing. Continuing in 2025, USA Judo will conduct reviews to ensure sanction compliance. All point events are encouraged to serve as USA Judo referee testing/evaluation events so as to have the best referees officiating matches with the best athletes in the United States. For 2024 USA Judo Sanctioned Point events, event hosts will be asked whether or not they are willing to be a USA Judo Referee testing/evaluation event. The goal is to encourage, but not mandate, this as the USA Judo Referee Committee will be looking to allocate a reasonable number of test/evaluation events throughout the United States to best continue the training and evaluation of the USA Judo Referee Corps. Point events must use the Smoothcomp competition management system and have the point event associated to USA Judo's Smoothcomp Federation Account as outlined on the events section of the USA Judo website. All USA Judo point events will be required to make its registration list public and provide the full participation list (following the event) to USA Judo.
- All junior point events require PJC divisions and weight categories.
- All senior point events require IJF divisions and weight categories.
- Benefits
  - 250 Smoothcomp Credits included in one category fee, 50 additional credits per added category after first one
  - Event posted on USA Judo Website Competition Calendar
  - Event shared on USA Judo Social Media Platforms six weeks before event
  - Two USA Judo Banners
- Mandatory Costs
  - Sanction Fee of \$550 for first point category, \$50 additional for each additional category. Categories include juniors, seniors, veterans and visually impaired
  - Referee costs associated with hosting a testing/evaluation event should include, but not be limited to daily stipends, meals, hotels and travel expenses. At minimum, expenses for chief referee and evaluators should include travel expenses.
  - Referee expenses not associated with hosting a testing/evaluation event should include at least one meal during the event day(s) and one or more of the following:
    - Stipend/per diem

- Hotel
- transportation (eg. Airfare/ground transportation to the event)
- Elective Costs
  - Additional Smoothcomp Credits sold at a discount of \$0.60/competitor
  - Smoothcomp Operator (if/when available)
  - Preferred pricing on medals/awards with USA Judo Vendor
  - Event apparel option with USA Judo vendor to include on-line store

## Official Weigh-In Procedures

### USA Judo National Events and Approved USA Judo Point Events

The guidelines below are to be followed for all USA Judo national events and all awarded point event categories:

#### Scales

- USA Judo will provide the official digital scales for USA Judo National Championship events. The appropriate point event director will provide scales for their respective event. The scales should register in kilograms of weight.

#### Contingency morning weigh-in (CMW)

- With prior approval, for those individuals who are not able to make the weigh-in session the day prior for whatever unforeseen circumstance or situation beyond their control.
- The CMW session is to be used only for those who experience extenuating circumstances beyond their control that prevent them from attending the weigh-in session the day before the event.
- Any individual(s) experiencing a situation beyond their control that would prevent them from attending the weigh-in MUST contact Vaughn Anderson at [Vaughn.Anderson@usajudo.us](mailto:Vaughn.Anderson@usajudo.us) explaining the reason for missing the weigh-ins scheduled the day before the event. Any individual who does NOT inform USA Judo of his/her need for the contingency weigh-in the day before will NOT be allowed to weigh-in during the CMW session. Deadline for requests is no longer than two hours after the published conclusion of weigh-ins the day before the event.
- Procedures and weigh-in locations will be posted in each event's Information Packet.

#### Weigh-in

- During Unofficial Weigh-Ins, scales will be designated as Practice Scales.
- During Official Weigh-Ins, scales will be designated as Official Scale and Unofficial Scale in each room.
- Determination of Official Scales: The scale that registers the lowest weight will be chosen as the Official Scale.
- The scales will be available at the tournament headquarters 24 hours prior to official weigh-ins.
- During Official Weigh-In, no one is allowed on the official scale unless they are officially weighing in for their category. Once an individual weighs in on an official scale, that is their recorded official weight.

## Protocols

### General Protocols for all Weigh-In

- Athletes presenting themselves for weigh-in may undress down to:
  - For males, briefs or boxer shorts, t-shirts, bathing suits
  - For females, bathing suits, underwear and bra and/or T-shirt/leotards
  - Naked weigh in is NOT ALLOWED\*

\*to compensate, an additional 0.1kg will be allowed, i.e., for the 44kg weight, the limit will be 44.1.  
This is a clothing allowance only and the 0.1kg will only be added to the true weight.
- The scale must register a static standing weight.
- Once an athlete steps onto the scale, a weight must be registered.
- An athlete may not step off the scale until a weight is registered.
- An athlete may stay on the scale for a reasonable amount of time.
- All athletes, with the exception of open weight category, must register a weight.
- Staff/volunteer must ensure that the scale registers zero weight before the athlete gets on the scale.
- No one may touch an athlete while an athlete is weighing in, i.e., lift hair, etc. The athlete must stand alone with no contact with any person or object such as a table, furniture, etc.
- For events that are sanctioned by IJF or PJC or trial categories, athletes must weigh in within the official category and are not allowed to be over the category or under the category. For example, for the -52kg weight division, a range of 48 kg up to 52.1 kg is acceptable.
- After weighing in, if athlete is under 12 years of age, if/when possible, an adult/parent/guardian should also initial next to the weight to confirm accuracy.
- If an athlete shows up late to weigh-in, the Tournament Director is to be called.
- There may only be the same gender within each weigh-in room. Opposite gender parents may wait outside while an adult of the same gender as the athlete accompanies the athlete into the weigh-in room.

### Personnel

- Male staff and female staff only will be allowed in the gender-appropriate weigh-in rooms or areas.
- A minimum of two observers must always be present in the weigh-in rooms, at least one who has completed SafeSport training.
- A minimum of one volunteer/referee must serve in a supervisory position in each room that has current SafeSport Training and clean background screen on file with USA Judo.

The Tournament Committee reserves the right to make all final decisions regarding weigh-ins.

## **Official Weigh-in Procedures For Non-Pointable USA Judo Sanctioned Events**

The guidelines below are to be followed for all USA Judo sanctioned events except for USA Judo National events and all awarded point event categories.

### Scales

- Scales to be provided by the respective event director. The scales should be digital and calibrated.

### Weigh-In

- During Unofficial Weigh-Ins, scales will be designated as Practice Scales
- During Official Weigh-Ins, if multiple scales are available, they should be designated as Official Scale and Unofficial Scale in each room.
- Determination of Official Scales: The scale that registers the lowest weight will be chosen as the Official Scale
- If only one scale is available during official weigh-in, athlete should state prior to stepping on if they are testing their weight or if they are officially weighing in. If officially weighing in, that weight will be recorded for event purposes.

## Protocols

### General Protocols for all Weigh-Ins:

- Athletes presenting themselves for weigh-in may undress down to:
  - For males, briefs or boxer shorts, T-shirts, bathing suits
  - For females, bathing suits, underwear and bra and/or tee-shirt/leotards
  - Naked weigh in is NOT ALLOWED\*

\*to compensate, an additional .1kg will be allowed, i.e., for the 44kg weight, the limit will be 44.1 for any categories using true weight divisions. This is a clothing allowance only and the 0.1kg will only be added to the true weight.
- The scale must register a static standing weight.
- Once an athlete steps onto the scale, a weight should be registered.
- An athlete may not step off the scale until a weight is registered.
- An athlete may stay on the scale for a reasonable amount of time.
- All athletes must register a weight.
- Staff/volunteer must ensure that the scale registers zero weight before the athlete gets on the scale.
- No one may touch an athlete while an athlete is weighing in, i.e., lift hair, etc. The athlete must stand alone with no contact with any person or object such as a table, furniture, etc.
- For events that are sanctioned by IJF or PJC or trial categories, athletes must weigh in within the official category and are not allowed to be over the category or under the category. For example, for the -52kg weight division, a range of 48 kg up to 52.1 kg is acceptable.
- There may only be the same gender within each weigh-in room. Opposite gender parents may wait outside while a SafeSport trained adult of the same gender as the athlete accompanies the athlete.

## Personnel

- Male staff and female staff only will be allowed in the gender-appropriate weigh-in rooms or areas.
- A minimum of two observers (with at least one of the two being SafeSport trained), must always be present in the weigh in rooms.
- A minimum of one volunteer/referee must serve in a supervisory position in each room that has current SafeSport Certification and clean background screen on file with USA Judo.
- All athletes should use appropriate restrooms, locker rooms or specifically designated changing areas when needing to change clothes or judo gis. These changes should NOT take place in the open public nor matside.

### Remote/Satellite Weigh-in:

- Remote weigh-ins are accepted for non-point events only.
- Remote/Satellite locations must adhere to the General Protocols and Personnel rules above.
- Remote weigh-ins must be held within an appropriate timeframe (typically no more than 24 hours prior to the categories to be contested) to maintain fair weight for all athletes involved.
- Remote/Satellite weigh-ins must be held at a registered USA Judo club in good standing (eg. All certifications are current for club administrators)



- It is recommended that no more than 1 kilogram variance be allowed and that calibrated scales are available at the competition venue to confirm participant weights for safety and fair play purposes.

*The procedures outlined in this document may be amended by USA Judo if/when necessary, at any time.*

Questions may be directed to Vaughn Anderson, USA Judo's Events & Technology Manager, at 719-866-3684 or [Vaughn.Anderson@usajudo.us](mailto:Vaughn.Anderson@usajudo.us)

**Appendices Including**  
**Forms & Signage**  
**Templates**

## **APPENDIX A – USA Judo Event Tracking Tool**

INSTRUCTIONS: This document is to be completed electronically by Event Directors or staff of any USA Judo sanctioned event and/or tournament to properly record any participant that is not tracked within Smoothcomp, Sport80, or your online registration platform. If your event does not use an online registration tool, then you may send your athlete list to USA Judo with this form and/or competition brackets. To stay in compliance with USA Judo and the U.S. Center for SafeSport we ask that this is completed and returned along with your “Sanctioned Event Report” to [Austin.Leath@usajudo.us](mailto:Austin.Leath@usajudo.us) in accordance with USA Judo’s Standard Operating Procedures. To ensure compliance, event organizers must provide a list of all competitors, coaches, referees, volunteers, staff and medical personnel. Competitor names can be provided through a downloaded list from Smoothcomp, or you may opt to allow USA Judo admin access to your Smoothcomp page.

Participants include but are not limited to: athletes, coaches, referees, event staff, volunteers, media, and vendors. The Event Tracking Tool can be downloaded from the USA Judo website at: [usajudo.com/events/event-sanctioning](http://usajudo.com/events/event-sanctioning)

## **Appendix B – Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy (MAAPP)**

The MAAPP is to be included in registration paperwork and available on-site for all USA Judo sanctioned events.

### Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy (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 [here](#).

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 are considered as 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. USA Judo, in cooperation with USA Judo Clubs and all LAOs (Local Affiliated Organizations), 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 [here](#).

**Appendix C – SafeSport Information Flyer & QR Code**

# SAFESPORT INFORMATION



U.S. CENTER FOR  
**SAFESPORT**

USA Judo requires all participants, vendors, and spectators to abide by the SafeSport Code and USA Judo Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies. To view the full range of policies or to anonymously report a concern please use the QR code or contact USA Judo's Austin Leath at 719-866-3621. Paper copies are also available on request.



## **Appendix D**

### **SafeSport/MAAPP E-mail Template to send all participants before your event**

Good evening and thank you for registering for the [EVENT]. Please remember that USA Judo and all sanctioned events must adhere to the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP) derived from the US Center for SafeSport; all USA Judo members, spectators, and volunteers / media are also expected to follow these rules and regulations during the entirety of the event. The full range of policies can be found here: <https://www.usajudo.com/safe-sport>.

All MAAPP and SafeSport violations can be reported formally or anonymously through the reporting form/button found here: <https://uscenterforsafesport.org/report-a-concern/>. If you have any questions about this please contact [austin.leath@usajudo.us](mailto:austin.leath@usajudo.us) or 719-866-3621.

## Appendix E

### 2025 USA Judo Sanctioned Event Checklist

<u>Pre-Event Checklist</u>	<u>Post-Event Checklist</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Select a date</li><li>✓ Select a location &amp; contract venue</li><li>✓ Create registration packet</li><li>✓ Submit sanction via Sport:80 system</li><li>✓ Set up registration on Smoothcomp or Sport:80</li><li>✓ Determine if referee test/eval event</li><li>✓ Meet with Referee Committee admins for test/eval logistics</li><li>✓ Secure current referees</li><li>✓ Order medals</li><li>✓ Order signage</li><li>✓ Recruit other vendors (merchandise)</li><li>✓ Determine if hotel partner needed</li><li>✓ Provide USA Judo with graphic for social media mention</li><li>✓ Create SafeSport/MAAPP Signage</li><li>✓ Cross reference all participants for<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ USA Judo Membership</li><li>○ Banned/suspended individuals</li></ul></li><li>✓ Send e-mail about SafeSport Reporting and MAAPP within 10 days before event</li><li>✓ Hang SafeSport signage throughout venue</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Collect all injury reports</li><li>✓ Submit paperwork to USA Judo within five days to prevent fines<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Injury reports</li><li>○ Any new membership forms</li><li>○ Participation list</li></ul></li></ul>



## **Appendix F**

### **USA Judo Partners to Assist with USA Judo Sanctioned Events**

Athlete Performance Systems (APS) - official sponsor of the USA Judo National Team and can provide Nike branded apparel to sanctioned event organizers for resale.

Dollamur – official mat provider who provides discounted prices for USA Judo member clubs.

SignsRX – official club and tournament merchandise store who can provide USA Judo and co-branded signage for your events.

Smoothcomp – official competition management system. Smoothcomp credits may be part of your sanction and additional Smoothcomp credits can be purchased by USA Judo at a discounted rate compared to those that can be purchased directly from Smoothcomp.

Team IP – official event merchandiser who can assist events with apparel, medals and novelty items.

Team Travel Source – official tournament housing provider who can provide assistance with hotel property recruiting and management resulting in rebates (typically \$10 per room per night) paid to USA Judo Sanctioned event organizers.