



**MARCH 14-15 • WICHITA, KS**



## WELCOME TO THE 2026 USA JUDO YOUTH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

USA Judo is pleased to welcome you to the Youth National Championships in Wichita, Kansas. Competition will take place at the Century II Convention Center and *will serve as the trials for the Junior and Cadet Pan American/Oceania Championships.*

### Know Before You Go

<b>Tournament Host:</b>	USA Judo		
<b>Sanctioning Organization:</b>	USA Judo		
<b>Tournament Contacts:</b>	Eric Tschudy: 719.339.0937 Eric.Tschudy@usajudo.us		
<b>Online Registration:</b>	<a href="https://usajudo.sport80.com/public/wizard/e/749">https://usajudo.sport80.com/public/wizard/e/749</a>		
<b>Live Results:</b>	<a href="https://usajudo.smoothcomp.com">https://usajudo.smoothcomp.com</a>		
<b>Pointable Categories:</b>	All regular categories (IJF-Junior, Cadet, Juvenile, Intermediate, Bantam)		
<b>Non-Pointable Categories:</b>	All novice categories		
<b>Tournament Site:</b>	Bob Brown Expo Hall at Century II Convention Ce 225 W Douglas Wichita, KS 67202		
<b>Host Hotel:</b>	<a href="#">Hyatt Regency Wichita</a> 400 West Waterman Wichita, KS 67202		
<b>Key Dates:</b>	<b>Fri., March 13</b> Check-In Weigh-In (Regular Bantam, Intermediate, Cadet) Referees, Coaches and Technical Officials Meetings	<b>Sat., March 14</b> Competition (Regular Bantam, Intermediate and Cadet) Weigh-In (IJF-Junior, Juvenile, All Novice Categories)	<b>Sun., March 15</b> Competition (IJF-Junior, Juvenile, All Novice Categories)
<b>Chief Referee:</b>	TBD		

## Contents

Deadlines and Entry Fees .....	3
Schedule of Events .....	4
Event Code of Conduct .....	5
Spectator Admissions Fees .....	6
Headquarters Hotel .....	6
Transportation .....	6
Coach Information .....	7
Referee Event Registration .....	7
Eligibility .....	9
Junior and Cadet Pan Am / Oceania Championship Trials .....	9
Age Categories and Weight Divisions .....	10
Weigh In .....	11
Check In .....	12
Exhibition Matches .....	12
Club Affiliation .....	12
Credentials .....	12
Confirmation of Categories / Draw .....	12
Manager Credentials .....	13
Rules and Method of Competition .....	13
Judo Gi / Undergarments / Changing .....	14
Awards .....	14
Banners / Signs / Advertisements .....	15
Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy .....	15
Notice of Possible Testing for Banned Substances .....	16

**First-Time Competitors:** Click [here](#) to view tips for athletes competing at their first national event.

***The tournament staff reserve the right to make all final decisions regarding the tournament.***

## Deadlines and Entry Fees

Deadline	1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Category (Each)	3 <sup>rd</sup> and Each Subsequent Category
Early Online Registration: Ends February 2 (4:00 p.m. MT)	\$90.00	\$60.00
Regular Online Registration: Ends February 19 (4:00 p.m. MT)	\$110.00	80.00
Late Online Registration: Ends March 3 (4:00 p.m. MT)	\$150.00	\$110.00
*NEW* Walk-Up Additional Category/Division Entry: (PRE-REGISTERED ATHLETES ONLY) March 14 <sup>th</sup> and 15 <sup>th</sup> Weigh-Ins	\$300.00 (per additional category/division)	No more than two (2) additions allowed for walk-ups.

See [NOTE](#) about multiple categories.

## No Walk-Up Registrations

- All registrations must be completed online. No paper registrations.
- **Online registrations will not be accepted after March 3 at 4:00 p.m. MT.**
- Athlete's date of birth, citizenship and rank, if applicable, must be verified in the database prior to using the online event registration system. Send copies of athlete's birth certificate/passport and rank certificate to [Connor.Jenkins@usajudo.us](mailto:Connor.Jenkins@usajudo.us). Verifications will only be processed during normal business hours, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. MT.
- Entry into second or third category must be for same athlete.
- **Entry fees are non-refundable and non-transferable**
- **Absolutely no changes will be accepted after 4:00 p.m. MT on Tuesday, March 5, 2026.**

# Schedule of Events

(Subject to Change)

## Thursday, March 12

7 a.m. -10 p.m. (Thursday through Saturday)

### Hyatt Regency Wichita

Male Test Scales (Cedar 204) Female Test Scales (Walnut)  
(Test scales open through Saturday)

## Friday, March 13

10 a.m.

### Hyatt Regency Wichita

Preliminary List of Athletes Posted: [usajudo.smoothcomp.com](http://usajudo.smoothcomp.com)

12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Tournament check-in / changes for all competitors (Maple 205).

### NO WALK-UP REGISTRATION

12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Weigh-Ins for Regular Bantam, Intermediate and Cadet Categories

Male Official Weigh-In (Birch Room 203)

Female Official Weigh-In (Walnut Room 208)

Male Unofficial Weigh-In (Cedar 204)

Female Unofficial Weigh-In (Osage 207)

3 p.m.

Technical Officials Meeting (Redbud A)

3 p.m.

Referee Meeting (Cyprus B)

4 p.m.

Coach Meeting (Redbud A)

6:00 p.m.

Brackets posted for regular Bantam, Intermediate and Cadet Categories: [usajudo.smoothcomp.com](http://usajudo.smoothcomp.com)

## Saturday, March 14

7 a.m.

### Bob Brown Expo Hall @ Century II Convention Center

Doors Open

7:30 a.m.

Referees meeting (102AB)

8:15 a.m.

Opening Ceremony

8:30 a.m.

Competition begins (Regular Bantam, Intermediate and Cadet Categories)

### Hyatt Regency Wichita

11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Official Weigh-Ins (Regular Juvenile, IJF-Junior and all Novice Categories)

Male Official Weigh-In (Birch Room 203)

Female Official Weigh-In (Walnut Room 208)

## Sunday, March 15

8 a.m.

### Bob Brown Expo Hall @ Century II Convention Center

Welcome

8:30 a.m.

Competition Starts

**NOTE: ATHLETES DO NOT NEED TO WEIGH IN FOR A SECOND CATEGORY IF THE SECOND CATEGORY IS THE SAME WEIGHT. IF A DIFFERENT WEIGHT CATEGORY, ATHLETE MUST WEIGH IN AGAIN.**

***The tournament staff reserves the right to make all final decisions regarding the tournament.***

## **Event Code of Conduct**

*(Applicable to all attendees, including, but not limited to Athletes, Coaches, Spectators, Officials, Volunteers, Parents)*

1. I will not engage in unsportsmanlike conduct.
2. I will not engage in any behavior which would endanger the health, safety or well-being of any attendee.
3. I will not engage in the use of profanity.
4. I will treat any coach, parent, athlete, volunteer, official or any other attendee with respect.
5. I will not engage in verbal or physical threats or abuse aimed at any attendee.
6. I will not initiate a fight or unauthorized physical contact with any attendee.
7. I will obey all facility and organization rules, including USA Judo's Code of Conduct, Code of Ethics, and Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies.
8. I will be responsible for the sportsmanship of myself and teammates while assisting in maintaining a respectful environment for all participants.
9. I understand that the concluding decision of the officials or event director is final and will accept it with respect and grace.

It is agreed that if I fail to conform to the above while attending a USA Judo event through coaching, officiating, or participating in any capacity the following will occur:

**USA JUDO RESERVES THE RIGHT TO IMMEDIATELY REMOVE ME FROM THE COMPETITION/ACTIVITY AND REVOKE MY CREDENTIALS.**

## Spectator Admission Fees

Those with a current 'Life' or 'Supporting' USA Judo membership type may receive free admission by emailing [Connor.Jenkins@usajudo.us](mailto:Connor.Jenkins@usajudo.us)

Age	One Day	Two Day
13+	\$20.00	\$35.00
9-12	\$15.00	\$25.00
8 and Under	Free	Free

## Tournament Hotels

**Headquarters:** Hyatt Regency Wichita -- This hotel is attached to the competition venue  
400 W Waterman St  
Wichita, KS 67202

**Rate:** USA Judo discounted rate:  
Double Queen or Standard King: \$149.00 per night, plus tax:  
[Book Here](#)

**Deadline Date:** Book by February 16, 2026 to receive discounted rate.  
*Rooms go fast so it is best to book as early as possible.*

## Transportation

**Air Transportation:** The nearest airport – Dwight D. Eisenhower National Airport (Code ICT) – is located approximately 8 minutes from the host hotel.

**Ground Transportation:** Information on public transportation around Wichita can be found [here](#).



## Coach Information

In order to coach mat-side, all coaches must have a coaching credential for the tournament.

Coaches must hold a current USA Judo coaching membership, including current background screen and concussion and SafeSport training to receive coaching credentials at this event. Credentials will be issued at the coaches meeting. Attendance at the meeting is **mandatory** for all coaches. All coaches must have a photo ID coach credential to receive a wristband for the event.

All USA Judo coaches must register for the event through the event online entry system at [usajudo.sport80.com](https://usajudo.sport80.com) to receive wristbands. There is no charge for pre-registering. Log into your USA Judo profile and click on Events to register. New: \*\* Walk-Up registrations will incur a \$20.00 charge \*\*

*New: Credentials will only be issued at the coaches meeting.*

NOTE: Only one coach is allowed to coach mat-side inside the barricade during each match. Coaches who fail to comply this rule may lose their coach wristband for the day and may be removed from the venue.

**Coaching outside the barricade is not allowed.**

*IJF Junior and Cadet categories will follow IJF coaching rules. No coaching during active competition, only during Mate.*

Coaches may not approach referees during competition unless invited by referees. During a break, coaches may approach referees.

All coaches must adhere to the following dress code during this event. Failure to adhere will be grounds for removal of coaching credentials.

Coaches may wear their club or USA Judo warm-up suit with pants reaching down to their shoes which need to be closed-toe (sandals and flip flops are NOT permitted). Coaches may wear a short or long-sleeved t-shirt as long as it has a judo club logo or USA Judo logo on it. Please note that hoodies are NOT permitted. Otherwise, a collared shirt is required. Khaki pants are preferred, but dress jeans (no holes or markings) also are allowed. Please consider that your appearance represents you, your family, your dojo, your athletes, your athletes' families, our sport and USA Judo. All USA Judo national events will be streamed and people from around the world will be tuning in, so please look as professional as possible.

## Referee Event Registration

All referees must first register on the [USA Judo Referee Information](https://usajudo.sport80.com) website, [judoreferee.com](https://judoreferee.com). Once confirmed by the Referee Committee you must then register on the event website.

Log into your USA Judo membership profile at [usajudo.sport80.com](https://usajudo.sport80.com) and click on Events. Select the 2025 USA Judo Youth National Championships and follow prompts to register.

If you do not register or are not confirmed through the [judoreferee.com](https://judoreferee.com) site, but do register on the event platform, you may not be allowed to participate in the event and USA Judo will not be responsible for any expenses associated with your travel/stay to the event.



## Eligibility

All athletes must be members in good standing of USA Judo, including individuals without citizenship who are competing in events that are not trials or do not have international federation approval, as outlined below. Athletes may compete in the USA Judo Youth National Championships if they meet the following eligibility requirements, and there is no conflict regarding weigh-in and competition schedules.

Per the USA Judo Athlete / Event Payment Policy, any individual who has an outstanding debt to USA Judo and has not made the required payment(s) within the payment window outlined in the policy will not be eligible to compete until the payment has been made.

### **Regular Bantam, Intermediate, Juvenile and IJF-Junior Open Weight Categories and All Novice Categories**

- U.S. citizens
- Athletes with a Permanent Resident Card (Green Card) or any U.S. non-tourist visa
- Non-U.S. citizens who have submitted international passport and date of birth documentation AND are USA Judo Members in good standing with the organization.
- International non-USA Judo members must submit an invitation letter from their home federation to [Corinne.Shigemoto@usajudo.us](mailto:Corinne.Shigemoto@usajudo.us).
- Athletes who meet the criteria of the International Judo Federation refugee program and are currently approved with proof of documentation/acceptance from the IJF to participate in the refugee program, may also compete in the categories listed above. Please provide a copy of the necessary documents to [connor.jenkins@usajudo.us](mailto:connor.jenkins@usajudo.us)

### **IJF-Junior and Cadet Regular Categories**

- U.S. Citizens only and have not represented another country internationally in the last 3 years, or athletes who meet the criteria of the International Judo Federation's refugee.

### **Rank Requirements**

- Regular Categories: All ranks eligible
- Novice Categories: White, yellow or orange belts only

Point Roster criteria can be found at [2026 Junior National Ranking Roster](#).

### **Novice Eligibility**

**New rule: Athletes are only eligible to compete in novice categories for one calendar year, which would include the first event in which they competed as a novice.**

Example:

If an athlete competed in any novice division at the March 2025 Youth Nationals, they are eligible for novice status at the 2026 Youth Nationals, but this will be the last event that they are eligible for novice status.

If an athlete competed as a novice at any other USA Judo National event in 2025, they are eligible to compete in novice divisions until after the corresponding event occurs the next year.

**Any club whose athlete violates the above novice eligibility policy may be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to, the withholding of coaching credentials for future national events.**

## Junior and Cadet Pan Am / Oceania Championships Trials

Eligibility and selection criteria for the 2026 Junior and Cadet Pan American Championships Team can be found here: [Junior Selection Procedures | USA Judo](#)

### How the 2026 Junior and Cadet Pan American/Oceania Championships Team is Named

- Updated as of November 11, 2025
- **Team Selection for 2026 Cadet and Junior Pan American Championships**
- **Cadet Team:** 10 male and 10 female athletes will represent USA Judo at the 2026 Cadet Pan American/Oceania Championships.
- **Junior Team:** 9 male and 9 female athletes will represent USA Judo at the 2026 Junior Pan American/Oceania Championships.
- **Direct Qualification Criteria**
- The **Cadet and IJF Junior Gold Medalists** in each division at the 2026 USA Judo Youth National Championships will earn a direct qualifier spot in their respective divisions.
- **Silver medalists** will serve as first alternates.
- **Bronze medalists** will serve as second alternates.
- **Fourth-place finishers** will serve as third alternates.
- **Wild Card Selection**
- Each team (Cadet and Junior) may include **two male and two female wild card athletes** per age group—four for Cadet and four for Junior—if applicable.
- Wild cards will be awarded to the two male and two female athletes not directly qualified with the highest point totals on the USA Judo National Cadet and IJF Junior rosters with results through **March 15, 2026 (up to and including 2026 Youth Nationals)**.
- Points cannot be combined across divisions.
- No country may enter more than **two athletes per division**.
- Wild card athletes are **not required** to compete at the 2026 USA Judo Youth National Championships but must have at least **14 points** on the respective roster with results through **March 15, 2026 (up to and including 2026 Youth Nationals)**.
- Wild card selections cannot be in the same division.  
If the PJC or IJF modifies the number of athletes allowed per tournament, USA Judo reserves the right to adjust these criteria accordingly.

## Age Categories and Weight Divisions

Please note that each category is based on the year in which the contestant was born. All weights are in kilograms. For each weight division, the weight range will be over the next lower weight and up to and including the weight listed. Example: Bantam 1, 28 kg – over 23 kg and up to and including 28 kg.

**For Cadet athletes, only one weight division is allowed within the Cadet category. For IJF-Junior athletes, the open weight division can be a second entry. For regular bantam, intermediate and juvenile categories, see below:**

**Regular bantam, intermediate and juvenile categories:** Athletes must select their true age/weight category as their first entry. They may also select as a “bonus” category(s) one weight up in their true age category and/or move up one age category in their true weight. See [NOTE](#) on multiple categories.

For example:

- First category is Bantam 2 female 19 kg (true age/weight)
- Second category is Bantam 2 female 23 kg
- Third category is Bantam 3 female 21 kg

The above would be considered entry into three categories & three entry fees must be paid as outlined in the fee matrix above.

The following age/weight categories will be in use for this year’s event (2026):

### CATEGORIES ARE BASED SOLELY ON YEAR OF BIRTH

Regular Categories	
<b>Bantam 1 (Born 2021):</b> Female and Male: 18, 22, +22 kg	<b>Bantam 6 (Born 2016):</b> Female and Male: 27, 31, 35, 39, 44, +44 kg
<b>Bantam 2 (Born 2020):</b> Female and Male: 19, 23, +23 kg	<b>Intermediate (U13) (Born 2014-2015):</b> Female: 32, 36, 40, 44, 48, 52, 57, 63, +63 kg Male: 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 66, 73, +73 kg
<b>Bantam 3 (Born 2019):</b> Female and Male: 21, 25, 29, +29 kg	<b>Juvenile (U15) (Born 2012-2013):</b> Female: 36, 40, 44, 48, 52, 57, 63, 70, +70 kg Male: 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 66, 73, 81, +81 kg
<b>Bantam 4 (Born 2018):</b> Female and Male: 22, 26, 30, 34, 38, +38 kg	<b>Cadet (Born 2009-2011):</b> Female: 40, 44, 48, 52, 57, 63, 70, +70 kg Male: 50, 55, 60, 66, 73, 81, 90, +90 kg
<b>Bantam 5 (Born 2017):</b> Female and Male: 25, 29, 33, 37, 41, +41 kg	<b>IJF-Junior (Born 2006-2011):</b> Female: 48, 52, 57, 63, 70, 78, +78 kg, Open Male: 60, 66, 73, 81, 90, 100, +100 kg, Open

For each weight division, the weight range will be over the next lower weight and up to and including the weight listed. Example: Bantam 1, 28 kg – over 23 kg and up to and including 28 kg.

<b>Novice Categories</b> <i>(For pre-planning purposes only, categories may be determined light, middle and heavy)</i>	
<b>Bantam 1 (Born 2020-2021):</b> Female and Male: 23, +23 kg	<b>Juvenile (U15) (Born 2012-2013):</b> Female: 36, 40, 44, 48, 52, 57, 63, 70, +70 kg Male: 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 66, 73, 81, +81 kg
<b>Bantam 2 (Born 2018-2019):</b> Female and Male: 23, 27, 31, 35, +35 kg	<b>Cadet (Born 2009-2011):</b> Female: 40, 44, 48, 52, 57, 63, 70, +70 kg Male: 50, 55, 60, 66, 73, 81, 90, +90 kg
<b>Bantam 3 (Born 2016-2017):</b> Female: 27, 32, 37, +37 kg Male: 25, 30, 36, 42, +42 kg	<b>IJF-Junior (Born 2006-2011):</b> Female: 48, 52, 57, 63, 70, 78, +78 kg Male: 60, 66, 73, 81, 90, 100, +100 kg
<b>Intermediate (U13) (Born 2014-2015):</b> Female: 32, 36, 40, 44, 48, 52, 57, 63, +63 kg Male: 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 66, 73, +73 kg	

The IJF-Junior Category is the same as the International Judo Federation Junior World Championships Category. Athletes may enter if they are born in 2006 through 2011 only.

The tournament staff reserves the right to make changes in the highest and lowest weight classes in all age divisions as necessary for safety purposes. When such adjustments are made, only the highest weight sub-category will be pointable.

## Weigh In

A calibrated practice scale will be available prior to, and during, the weigh-in periods. However, in no case will contestants be allowed on the Official Scale during Official Weigh-in for the purpose of checking weight.

Athletes may check weight as many times as desired prior to the official weigh-in on the official scale. An athlete is given only one chance on the official scale during official weigh-in. Open division contestants do not need to weigh in. **At weigh in, IJF and Cadet categories must present a government issued photo ID.** Photo ID not required for all other categories.

**Naked weigh in is not allowed for any age/weight category.** To compensate, 0.1kg will be allowed. For example, in the 44kg category the limit will be 44.1kg. This is a clothing allowance only and the 0.1kg will only be added to the true weight.

Athletes who neglected to change their weight during the check in process and missed weight during official weigh in, may enter an additional category by registering (and paying) for the new category as a walk-up registration.

**IMPORTANT:** All athletes must make their declared weight as registered unless a change is made during the check in/registration process prior to getting on the official scale. Athletes may change their weight category during check in/registration. Failure to make declared weight will result in the athlete not competing in that category. Athlete will not be automatically moved to next weight category. Once official weight is recorded, no changes to weight category will be accepted.

**NO CHANGES WILL BE ACCEPTED AT WEIGH IN.**

## Check In

Check in only if you have a change to your weight/category, or if adding additional categories/divisions (max 2). If there are no changes to be made, please proceed directly to weigh-in. **No changes will be accepted or made at weigh-in.**

## Exhibition Matches

Exhibition matches may be offered for those athletes who are uncontested in their true age/weight category. Only those athletes who are uncontested may request an exhibition match. All efforts will be made to find one or two athletes within appropriate age/weight willing to participate. No points or medals will be awarded for exhibition matches. Request for exhibition matches must be made to the event director no later than 10 a.m. on the day that their uncontested category was scheduled. Blue and white gis still will be required.

## Club Affiliation

Only current USA Judo clubs in good standing, at the time of registration, will be associated with the athlete's entry. Non-USA Judo clubs will not be affiliated with a registered athlete. Club affiliation is not required to compete in this tournament.

## Credentials

Athletes will be issued their credentials during the weigh-in process.

A preliminary list of athletes by category/weight will be available at <https://usajudo.smoothcomp.com>.

## Confirmation of Categories / Draw

Athletes/coaches/representatives for the athlete are required to check the list to ensure the athlete is in the correct category/weight.

- Any corrections should be reported immediately to staff no later than 7 p.m. CT on Friday, March 13.
- All corrections must be emailed to [Eric.Tschudy@usajudo.us](mailto:Eric.Tschudy@usajudo.us) or submitted in person onsite. **PHONE CALLS OR TEXTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**
- Corrections will be processed, then brackets will be adjusted relative to seeding (categories where applicable), open spots, state/club/last name separation where possible. Draw brackets and fight sheets will be posted at <https://usajudo.smoothcomp.com>.
- **IMPORTANT:** This period is for corrections / confirmations of changes made during the check-in/registration time period. **NO OTHER CHANGES WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

A representative for each athlete must review the posted preliminary list to ensure the athlete is in the correct category. Failure to confirm or make corrections during the Confirmation of Categories period may result in the athlete **NOT COMPETING IN THIS TOURNAMENT**. All draws will be conducted using USA Judo approved software. See Rules and Method of Competition for all seeding information. With the exception of seeding, the draw will be random. Once the draw is complete, there will be no changes.

## Manager Credentials

Club team manager credentials/wristbands will be considered for USA Judo certified clubs with 8 or more athletes competing on the same day. These credentials are for purposes of assisting athletes to their mats with the correct gi color on only. Coaching, taking photos, etc., will not be allowed. If there are no athletes on deck or in the hole, the club manager should not be inside the competition barricade. These club managers must hold current SafeSport certification and have an up-to-date background screen through USA Judo. The number of club manager credentials/wristbands will be based on the number of athletes a club has competing and issued at the discretion of USA Judo. These may be picked up at the Coach Credentialing table.

### Manager Credentials Application

USA Judo holds the right to deny a credential if the listed requirements are not met.

## Rules and Method of Competition

The Championships will be conducted in accordance with the Contest Rules, Organization Code and Sporting Code of the International Judo Federation, as revised for the USA Judo Youth National Championships.

**Competition Method:** The standard (“true”) Double Elimination System with winner’s and loser’s brackets will be used. The winner of the loser’s bracket will compete against the winner of the winner’s bracket for 1st and 2nd place. The first one of these two contestants to have two (2) losses will be placed second; the other will be placed first. The loser of the loser’s bracket will be placed 3rd. For categories of three and under contestants, round robin will be the method of competition.

### **Round Robin Clarification:**

- If Athlete A pulls out before finishing competition against other athletes in the category and does not go out onto the mat, all points won or lost associated with Athlete A are removed. No medal is awarded to Athlete A
- If Athlete A cannot finish competing but goes out onto the mat (field of play), then Athlete B wins and is awarded ippon points. Athlete A receives 0 points.
- If Athlete A, who did not finish competing but went out onto the mat, they are eligible to medal.

**Seeding:** There will be no seeding except for the Regular IJF-Junior and Cadet categories. The top four athletes will be seeded in each division. If a seeded athlete is not present, the other athletes WILL move up in seeding. Players having the same state affiliation will be placed as far apart in the bracket as possible.

**Points:** Juniors winning medals in the regular IJF-Junior, Juvenile, Cadet, Intermediate, and all Bantam divisions will be awarded points as outlined in the USA Judo Junior Event Point Matrix found at <https://www.usajudo.com>.

All athletes must compete in their true age/weight category.

**Shime-waza rule:** Allowed in regular Juvenile, Cadet, and IJF-Junior categories only.

**Kansetsu-waza rule:** Allowed in regular Cadet, and regular IJF-Junior only.

It is standard procedure in the United States that contestants competing in Junior divisions, up to and including 12 years of age, are not allowed to use Shime-waza (chokes) or Kansetsu-waza (arm locks). **If a participant whose true weight and age is in the Intermediate (U13) category and decides to move up to the Juvenile (U15) category, his/her parent or guardian acknowledges that chokes are allowed at the Juvenile (U15) level.**

**Injury Rule:** Decisions regarding on-mat injuries are to be resolved in accordance with IJF rules; such decisions occurring off the mat or not covered by the IJF rules, are to be made by the coach, the athlete, and appropriate medical staff. If there is not a unanimous opinion among these three individuals, the athlete may not continue (Board-approved October 22, 1998)

**Match lengths:**

- Bantam (3 minutes / 2-minute golden score)
- Intermediate and Juvenile (3 minutes / no golden score limit)
- Cadet and IJF-Junior (4 minutes / no golden score limit)

**Multiple category entries**

For athletes who elect to compete in multiple categories, efforts will be made to separate the competition times, but this cannot be guaranteed. If the athletes' categories are competing at the same time, the coach/athlete must inform the supervisor at both mats for EACH match that they will be competing in multiple categories at the same time. A mat will not be able to hold matches for more than three (3) matches to accommodate the athletes' multiple categories. The athlete must move from one category (on mat) to their waiting category with no rest time. If the athlete is not able to arrive to the 'waiting' match within three (3) matches, a decision must be made by the competitor/coach as to the match in which they compete, thereby forfeiting one of the two matches. If a competitor has matches immediately after one another, they must move to the waiting mat and begin competition immediately with no 10-minute rest.

## Judo Gi / Undergarments / Changing

For all categories, regardless of age, blue and white gi requirement is mandatory. IJF approved labeled gis are not required but fit must meet IJF standards. Back patches are not required.

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 be round-necked. No marking can be visible when the judogi is done up.

Athletes needing to change clothes/judo gi should do so in a restroom, locker room or other area specifically designated for changing.

## Awards

**Individual Awards:**

Gold, silver and bronze (one bronze) medals will be awarded for first, second and third places for all divisions

Athletes must wear either a clean full white judo gi or full team sweats on the awards podium. No additional items may be taken/worn on the podium (flags, hats, pictures, flowers, stuffed animals, etc.).

**Shoes will not be allowed on the awards stage/podium.**



## **Team Awards**

Athletes will be awarded points for all categories at the Youth Nationals based on the event as follows:

### 1. Regular Categories

- a. 1<sup>st</sup> place 500 points
- b. 2<sup>nd</sup> place 300 points
- c. 3<sup>rd</sup> place 100 points

### 2. Novice Categories

- a. 1<sup>st</sup> place 300 points
- b. 2<sup>nd</sup> place 200 points
- c. 3<sup>rd</sup> place 100 points

The team with the most points at the conclusion of the event will be named Team Champion for the 2026 Youth National Championships.

All teams must hold a current USA Judo club membership. Athletes must declare their USA Judo club no later than 7 p.m. CT on March 13.

Youth Nationals Champion Banners suitable for hanging in the host club will be presented in person at the following USA Judo President's Cup Championships.

**Note: If a member of your club (athlete, coach, official, spectator, parent or attendee) is removed from the venue for violation of the event code of conduct, your club may become ineligible for the team award for this event or the annual team award.**

## **USA Judo Team Annual Award**

Totals will be comprised from the 2026 Youth National, Senior Nationals, Junior Olympics, and President's Cup.

The award will be presented to the winning team at the 2027 Youth Nationals.

## **Banners / Signs / Advertisements in Venue**

USA Judo restricts the display of banners, flags, advertisements and other related signage in the competition venue without prior approval. Should such items be displayed, owners will be asked by event organizers to take down or remove the signage. **No flags/banners/signs on awards podium are allowed.**

## **Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (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 at <https://www.usajudo.com/safe-sport>.

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 considered 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 and Certification. USA Judo, in cooperation with USA Judo Clubs and all LAOs, 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 <https://www.usajudo.com/safe-sport>.

## **Notice of Possible Testing for Banned Substances**

I understand and agree that I may be drug tested at any time, that I am subject to and will abide by the USADA Protocol for Olympic and Paralympic Movement Testing, its Annexes, and the USOPC National Anti-Doping Policies, and that any dispute related to the foregoing will be resolved exclusively in arbitration pursuant to the USADA Protocol. Before taking any medications, check the prohibited status at [GlobalDRO.com](http://GlobalDRO.com). Also, be sure to download the Supplement 411 app or visit [Supplement411.org](http://Supplement411.org) to learn how to recognize and reduce the risks related to supplement use. If you have any anti-doping questions, please don't hesitate to call Athlete Express at (866) 601-2632.