

USAJudo Kata Committee Meeting  
February 1, 2025, 11:00am – 12:00; 10am CT; 9MT; 8 PT  
MEETING NOTES

- I. CALL TO ORDER, SEATING OF DELEGATES – Begin time: 11:03 am ET
  - A. Welcome by Chair. verify committee quorum (>50%) - yes
  - B. Committee members present: Diane Jackson, Theo Schwalm, Karen Whilden, Frances Glaze, Claudia Smith, Carla Martin, Barb Shimizu,  
Committee members absent: Eiko Shepherd sensei (called), Lisa Capriotti, K. Takeuchi sensei
  - C. Observers: Al P, Karen N, Tom Sheehan, Alain W, Rob Schab, R Wayne Brown, Robert Safranek Bridgeton, Josh Kindelberger, Bob S Bridgetown, M Kettl, Bruce Knight, Jordan SR
- II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Motion to approve agenda; Frances – Theo. Passed.
- III. MINUTES/NOTES FOR APPROVAL - n/a
- IV. BUSINESS
  - A. Regional US Kata Championships
    - Intent: developmental for athletes and judges.
    - Sanctioned by USJF – open to USJF, USJA, and USAJudo members
    - Western – Feb 8 (IJF evaluation criteria seminar 2/7, 6-9pm PT)
      - 51 athletes.
    - Central – June 14 (estimated)
    - Eastern – August 23-24 (estimated) – also tentative: “lil’ samarai” division - Nage no kata Set 1 or first 3: ukiotoshi, ukigoshi & okuriashiharai
    - **Request** – step up teaching, training others – encourage / direct teams to compete
  - B. Qualifying for USA Team
    - Quality score: PJC: 6.5, Worlds: 7.0 (no change)
    - Sr. Nationals qualifying event, unless waiver is requested before tournament or emergent hardship (no change)
    - **Motion Passed: Starting in 2026: Athletes to compete in Worlds, teams must have competed in PJC championship once in the last two years, unless approved for hardship/waiver, (every other year) – passed**
      - a) **Atheletes can contact Chair (Diane Jackson) or Karen Nagai for waiver or hardship requests.**
      - b) Motion: Frances – Carla.
      - c) Discussion: costs. with planning to do fund raising.
      - d) Vote:
        - (1) Yes- Frances, Claudia, Carla, Karen W, Diane, Barb
        - (2) No – none
        - (3) Abstain - Theo
      - e) Future Consideration for events to qualify to attend IJF tour event; will it should it support consideration for IJF worlds; secondary qualification event (PJC, or IJF tour).

- Reminder - To judge at Worlds, judges must have judged (or attended in other official duty) at PJC Championship in the last two years (minimum of every other year)
- C. **2025 PJC – (from committee meeting at 2024 PJC)**
  - In ‘USA’ PJC schedule says July 25 but just a placeholder – expect summer
  - For 2025: continue U23
  - For 2026 and after: U21
- D. 2024 IJF scores were distributed with all teams, all technique, all judges scores
  - judge mt assignments sheets – Karen Nagai sent to Diane
  - Rewatch on JudoTV
- E. **2025 Senior Nationals, Birmingham, AL**
  - Kata on May 25, Sunday
  - Divisions: U23, intermediate, open
  - Judge meeting: **Friday afternoon committee mtg and judges.** Friday evening referee mtg, Saturday. Athletes Check-in (?): coordinate with Corrine for Friday and/or Saturday.
    - a) Judges seminar – Theo volunteer to lead, if mat time.
    - b) Pre-tournament messages (email, social media): \_\_\_\_\_
- F. **Individual Foreign events (non-IJF and non-PJC) for judges**
  - **Motion Passed:** “blanket” approval by USAJudo Kata committee for USA IJF Judges with pre-notification to Committee. – Frances, Carla. Approve- Theo, Barb, Frances, Carla, Karen W, Claudia, Diane
  - ACTION: email USAJudo - Diane
  - DISCUSSION: how do we make sure judge is up to date/ “in good standing” on other credentials? Already does, USAJudo enters officials into Judo Base.
- V. Next Committee meeting: March 15, 2025, 11:00 – 12:00 ET, 10:00 CT, 9:00 MT, 8:00 PT, 7:00 AT, 6:00 HT
- VI. Next monthly Kata Discussions – Saturday, February 22, continue Ju No kata – 2 teams same country. 11:00 ET, 10:00 CT, 9:00 MT, 8:00 PT, 7:00 AT, 6:00 HT; and February 22, 11:00 ET, 10:00 CT, 9:00 MT, 8:00 PT, 7:00 AT, 6:00 HT;
- VII. End of meeting – time: 12:00pm - motion by Carla, seconded Theo. PASSED  
 ----- end meeting time -----

Other items tabled for later meeting:

- A. **USAJudo Kata Committee**
  - USA Judo Committees are generally small, ~ 6
  - Athlete representation = 30% for all committees
  - Succession planning
  - **creation of Kata Advisory Council, emeritus members**
- VIII. Updates for Smoothcomp:
  - Must: 1) team / names with uke/tori, 2) 1<sup>st</sup> forgotten: ½ score, 3) correct mis-spellings
  - ACTION: if you have other changes – contact Karen N and Karen W
  - Must have vs. Nice to have
- IX. Reminder - Hannah Martin – new USAJudo social media / communications

## Kata Calendar:

### ► 2025 USA Kata events:

- 2/ 1 – Ju no kata clinic – Frances Glaze
- 2/ 7- 8, 2025 - Lone Star Classic - kata and shiai - [Lone Star Smoothcomp](#)
- 2/ 8 – [1<sup>st</sup>] **Western US Kata Championship**, San Francisco, CA – POC: Mary Wakabayashi
  - Feb 7 – IJF kata evaluation criteria seminar, 6-9pm PT
- 2/ 9 – Katame no kata clinic w/ Ken Durand, UofNew Hamp, POC: K Durand
- 2/ 2 – Katame no kata clinic w/ DJackson, K Whilden, KTamai, Sport Judo, POC: D Jackson
- Feb xx – Tohkon kata clinic – Doug Tono, Chicago, IL
- 2/ 15&16 – Nage no kata and Katame no Kata clinic, with Andre Parent – France's Kata coach, Queens/Flushing, NYC [A Parent Smoothcomp](#)
- 2/22 and 3/1 – Ju no Kata with Frances Glaze, MI
- 2/23 – Ju no Kata with Diane Jackson, Woodbridge, VA
- 3/1 – Nage no Kata clinic with Bruce Knight – San Diego, CA - [usjf.smoothcomp](#).
- [3/ 8, Sat – Belgian Kata tournament]
- 3/ 9 (Sun) – Northern New Jersey Kata Competition – **kata only** - [NNJ Smoothcomp](#)
- 3/ 14 (F) – Pacific NW Open – kata on Friday, shiai on Sat, Lakewood, WA
- 3 / 21, Fri – Obukan, kata and shiai, Portland, OR
- 3/21 – 23 – Eastern Canadian Kata Tournament, St Jean sur Richelieu (Montreal)
  
- 4/ 6 – NCJA College and High School Championships, Durham, NH, University of New Hampshire HR [NCJA Smoothcomp/20229](#)
- 4/ 13 – Garden State (New Jersey) Championship (kata and shiai), Wayne, NJ
- 4/19 - Budokan Kata and Shiai Tournament, Saturday, Kent, WA
- [4/ 26 - 27 – French Kata tournament]
- 5/ 3 – Seattle Dojo Tournament, kata and shiai, Bellevue, WA
- 5/ 3 – Annual NE Kata Festival – U of New Hamp, POC: Ken Durand
- **5/ 24-25 – Senior Nationals, Birmingham, AL**
  
- 6/14 (est) - 1<sup>st</sup> Central US Kata Championship, Chicago, IL, POC: Eiko Shepherd
- 6/ 19 - 20 – USJF/USJA Summer Nationals kata and shiai, Honolulu, HI
- 6/ 27 - 29 – USJF Kata Conference, Boise, ID
- 7/ 12 - 19 – Kodokan Kata summer course (Saturday to Saturday).
- Summer – 2025 PJC Kata Championship and Veterans, **in the USA** (currently listed as July 25, same w/e as US Open – likely to change)
- 8/23 – 24 (target) – [1<sup>st</sup>] Eastern US Kata Championship, DC area, POC: Diane Jackson
  - August 2025 – Koshiki no kata clinic with David McFall, Sport Judo, DC area, POC: Diane Jackson
- September 21 – Liberty Bell, Whole Lotta Kata and shiai, Philadelphia, PA
- October 12 – Jason Morris Cup – kata and shiai, Scotia (Upstate), NY
- October/November – IJF World Kata Championship, Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, date TBD
- December - Winter Nationals (youth and seniors kata and shiai), CA, hosted by Nanka

### ► International kata tournaments/ events:

- Athletes: on-line: go through Austin Leath to register through JudoBase
- Judges: online form; letter/, email from USAJudo / USAJudo Kata Committee
- February (3 or 4<sup>th</sup> w/e) – Belgian Kata tournament

- ▶ February – Western Canada
- ▶ March 15-16, Eastern Canadian Kata Tournament, Montreal (St Jean sur Richelieu), Canada
- ▶ April 25 – 26 – France
- ▶ August – Nordic Open Kata
- ▶ September – Madrid, Spain

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- I. Quality criteria: 2025 Worlds and PJC team members
- A. 2023 / 2024 year – 6.5 PJC and 7.0 Worlds
  - B. **Same: no change for 2025**

- II. 2025 Senior National Divisions - May
- **same as 2024 Sr Nationals divisions**
  - 2024

	Nage	Kat	Ju	Kim	GoS	
U23	2	1	1	0	1	5
Intermediate - Open	4	5	3	0	1	13
Open/Sr	3	5	5	4	5	22
	9	11	9	4	7	

40

---- from January 2025

## BUSINESS

- I. 2025 1<sup>st</sup> Western US Kata Championship, San Francisco, CA
- **February 8, Saturday; clinic 6pm-9pm Friday Feb 7**
  - Event director/POC: Mary Wakabayashi
  - Venue: City College of San Francisco
  - Registration – Smoothcomp
  - Judges meeting / clinic 6 – 9 pm, Friday – all judges required / expected
  - USJF Fukuda Scholarship funds, possible – USJF membership required (E. Shepherd)
  - Sanctioned by USJF
  - Suggestion: Judges bring a PC laptop as backup, if possible
    - a) USJF have 5, maybe borrow from Nanka
    - b) Smoothcomp minimum needs for tablet. (check on smoothcomp website)
  - Divisions – include youth 12 years
    - a) Novice – youth and adults
    - b) Open
  - Ages: 12 and under, 15 and under, 22 and under, adults
  - Development / encouragement for new judges and athletes
  - Can/will combine if too few teams
  - male, female, and mixed gender team in separate divisions (may be combined depending on #)
  - Open for international? No.
  - Athletes can be members of USJF, USA Judo, or USJA

- Suggestion – have on-mat judge coordinator(s) for judge candidates
  - Mary – can athletes practice judging / do the practical judge at this tournament? Yes
  - Mary – can athletes also judge? Not official judge, just practice
- II. 1<sup>st</sup> Mid-US and 1<sup>st</sup> Eastern US Kata Championship
- Central-US – Chicago, IL, ~June 14 – Event director/POC: D. Tono / Eiko Shepherd
  - Eastern US – DC area, ~Aug 23 (tentative due to venue) – Event director/POC: D. Jackson
- III. **Motion passed in Concept** – can have same / similar test questions as USJF – if both organizations approve actual exams; but adding IJF judge criteria. Frances, Theo. **passed**
- IV. 2025 IJF Kata Championship changes
- 2025 Evaluation criteria published
  - With Itsutsu and Koshiki