USA Judo Kata Committee Summary
November 1, 2026, zoom
6:00pm ET / 5:00pm CT / 4:00pm MT / 3:00pm PT

USA Judo Kata Committee members attendance: Diane Jackson, Theo Schwalm, Karen Whilden, Doug Newcomer, Jim Sternick

Member not available: Barbara Shimizu

Observers: Janet Johnson, Ken Durand, J Atteeb, Karen Nagai, Tom Sheehan

Christine Levine (member and kata representative, Athlete Committee)

1. Welcome, established quorum. Time: 6:05 pm
2. Motion to approve Agenda: Doug, Karen - motion passes
3. USAJudo
    a. USAJudo and USJF Agreement - progress
    b. US - Kata Continental Open or KWS (2027, 2028 or 2029) – goal
    c. 2027 US Open - Gerry Navaro
    d. 2027 Kata at Jr Olympics (July) or Youth Nationals (March) (2027)
        i. When will kata be held? Same time as shiai, prior or after?
            1. Maybe : 2 Days competition: alternate for shiai competition
        ii. Possibility of USJF Clinic at USAJudo event – could lead to USJF funding with sanction
    e. Smoothcomp updates – leads: Barb S and Karen W
    f. First national team training – Jan 30-31, Eastside dojo, Plano, TX
    g. Motion: For Theo to reach out to USA Judo regarding the status of athletes and Judges (for IJF and PJC standing) on behalf of the USA Judo kata Committee for the status of moving toward IJF -dan rank acknowledgement. Theo, Doug- second, **motion passes**.
4. Items:
    a. International Open events and registration – Theo Schwalm
        i. List of judges and athletes that are already listed in JudoBase
        ii. Motion passed for Theo to reach out to USA Judo regarding the status of athletes and Judges (for IJF and PJC standing) on behalf of the USA Judo kata Committee for the status of moving toward IJF -dan rank acknowledgement.
    b. Smoothcomp – Barb Shimizu and Karen Whilden
    c. Athlete Points – Doug and Jim
    d. Judge participation tracking – tbd

    e. Judge analysis – Alain Wilkinson
    f. Update of USAJudo kata webpage – Christine Levine
5. IJF Dan ranks
    a. January 1, 2027 is cut-off
6. USJF-sponsored 'regional'/ national point tournaments – 2027: third year
    a. Clinic and Developmental for athletes
    b. Clinic and Developmental for judges
    c. USJF sanction
    d. USJF Funds if developmental activities
    e. Can/should move to other venues
    f. Western – 2026, January 30 in San Francisco, CA; 2027, Feb 6 in CA
    g. Midwest – 2026, October 17 in Chicago, IL; 2027 ?
    h. Eastern – 2026, August 9 in College Park, MD; 2027, Rochester, NY; Liberty Bell, PA? future: FL?
7. IJF Kata athlete / pairs points and point tournaments
    a. 2026: Sr. Nationals, Lone Star, Western, Eastern, Mid-West, USJF summer Nationals
    b. January – KWS – Spain
    c. March – KWS – Belgium
    d. Maybe April – KWS – France
    e. July 4 - KWS - Laval, CAN (near Montreal)
    f. IJF World Kata Championship
    g. PJC Kata Championship, Colombia, August 30?
    h. PJC Continental Open? South America?
    i. IJF document Documents / IJF.org
    j. Criteria for USA point system for athletes
8. US Athlete tournament points (spreadsheet) – Doug and Jim
    a. Kata Teams/Pairs of the Year
        i. 6.2 minimum average for tracking of IJF divisions
    b. Developing Kata teams
        i. 5.2 for developing teams (full kata divisions) U13, U18
9. Senior nationals is the USA team qualifier
    a. If slots available can consider point roster for US roster
    b. Developing Kata Teams/Pairs of the Year
    c. Qualification average score and criteria
        i. Average of 7.0 for Worlds
        ii. Average of 6.5 for PJC Championship

iii. US athletes and judges: Attend PJC at least once every 2 years to go to IJF Worlds, and waivers considered
iv. Other criteria (e.g., rank and age) per tournament outline

10. Look ahead to 2027
    a. PJC judge clinic
    b. What's App: USA Kata Community
    c. U11 (10 and under) – partial kata
    d. Junior: Cadet 15 - 18 years – green, blue belt – none this year (aligns with IJF division, but USA does not require draw for uke and tori roles)
    e. Junior: U21: 15 - 20 years: brown or black: NNK, KNK, JNK, (KDK Goshin Jutsu in US)
    f. Senior: Open (and Intermediate is non-point)
11. Ideas for Growing judges/instructors – coordinate with USJF Kata Committee (lead)
    a. Passing IJF academy = sufficient to be local instructor, without further requirements. USJF must agree
    b. Passing IJF academy = will count as demonstration for local, regional or national judge
    c. USA judo MOTION by Jim, second by Theo – PASSED
    d. USAJudo Kata Committee to recommend to USJF Kata Committee
12. Adjourn – 7:31 Karen W. second by Theo - passed

Senior Nationals Kata Statistics:

2026 Alb, NM	NNK	KaNK	JNK	KIME	KDK GJ	INK	KoNK	Subtotal
Senior/Open	10	7	5	4	9	4	2	**41**
Junior/U21	2	1	0	0	1	n/a	n/a	**4**
Intermed	1	3	5	0	0	n/a	n/a	**9**
Subtotal	**13**	**11**	**10**	**4**	**10**	4	2	**54**

2025 Birm, AL	NNK	KaNK	JNK	KIME	KDK GJ	ITSUTSU	Subtotal
Senior/Open	4	6	6	2	3	4	**25**
Junior/U23	2	0	1	0	0	n/a	**3**
Intermed	1	1	3	1	3	n/a	**9**
Subtotal	**7**	**7**	**10**	**3**	**6**	**4**	**37**
2024 Ont, CALI	NNK	KaNK	JNK	KIME	KDK GJ	ITSUTSU	Subtotal
Senior/Open	3	5	5	4	5	n/a	**22**
Junior/U23	2	1	1	0	1	n/a	**5**
Intermed	4	5	3	0	1	n/a	**13**
Subtotal	**9**	**11**	**9**	**4**	**7**	**n/a**	**40**
2023 Spo, WA	NNK	KaNK	JNK	KIME	KDK GJ	ITSUTSU	Subtotal
Senior/Open	3	4	5	2	3	n/a	**17**
Junior/U23	2	0	1	0	0	n/a	**3**
Intermed	3	3	2	1	2	n/a	**11**
Subtotal	**8**	**7**	**8**	**3**	**5**	n/a	**31**
2022 Day, FL	NNK	KaNK	JNK	KIME	KDK GJ	ITSUTSU	Subtotal
Men	6	5	0	2	3	n/a	**16**
Women	1	2	2	0	0	n/a	**5**
Mixed	0	0	2	0	0	n/a	**2**
Subtotal	**7**	**7**	**4**	**2**	**3**	n/a	**23**