

USA Judo Coach Education Committee Meeting

Tuesday, May 5, 2026, 12:00 Noon, EST

Zoom Meeting Minutes, ID:857 0791 4516

The zoom meeting started promptly at noon and was attended by: Marc Vink, Alaa Elidrissi, and Richard Moss. Lincoln Han – Athlete Representative was unable to attend due to a prior contractual commitment. The meeting lasted one (1) hour.

This was the first meeting of the newly appointed committee. After initial introductions the group entered into discussions via the meeting agenda.

Marc Vink presented basic statistics including: Since 2024 (YTD) there have been 31 sanctioned courses. Nine (9) of these were presented in California, three (3) in New York, three (3) in Wisconsin, two (2) in New Mexico, two (2) in Texas and two (2) in Illinois. Ten (10) states each had one sanctioned program. These states included Oklahoma, New Jersey, Ohio, Kentucky, Florida, Washington, Colorado, Indiana, and Idaho. The program presented in New Jersey was conducted online and had only one clinician. None of these courses were standardized. The committee strongly recommends that standardized courses aimed at the specific certification levels be developed.

The total number of certified coaches is currently 1,262, of which 263 (20.8%) are state coaches, 158 (12.5%) are regional coaches. These individuals represent approximately 33% of all certified coaches. While all of these individuals have completed online SafeSport and concussion training, it is presumed that the great majority have not attended further advanced clinics. The committee recommends that we add minimum mandatory online training for those seeking state and regional certification. Furthermore, the committee recommends that coach training be presented at all USA Judo national events.

While there appears to be a lack of resources to support coach education training, numerous, and well developed, power point presentations are scattered throughout various judo groups. The committee hopes to gather many of these materials to develop a standardized step program for each level of certification. The collection of various power point presentations is already in progress. Ari Miller provided a power point presentation developed by an earlier coach education group. Lincoln Han provided a link to his considerable resources in Italy. His resource material includes curriculum for adolescent, adult, and children's classes, offering additional lesson planning examples. Alaa Elidrissi indicated that the online American Judo resource is difficult to access. Marc Vink had a telephone conversation with a former committee member that indicated that approximately 15% of membership had accessed this resource.

Not much is known about the Niel Adams proposal to provide coach certification. Marc Vink is scheduled to have a teleconference with Niki Adams, General Manager of Effective Fighting on Wednesday, May 6, 2026. A greater understanding of the proposal is crucial in moving forward to meeting the January 2027 deadline for rollout.

The committee briefly discussed other topics including:

1. International coach mentoring program. Marc Vink provided Corinne with a first draft document for review.
2. Women in coaching. Marc Vink gathered relevant statistics including the following:
 - a. Currently, approximately 128 certified women coaches,
 - b. This number represents 10% of all USA Judo certified coaches,
 - c. Sixteen (16) females are state certified representing 12.5% of cohort,
 - d. Fifteen (15) females are regional certified representing 12% of cohort,
 - e. Fifty-four (54) females are nationally certified representing 42% of cohort,
 - f. Nineteen (19) females are continentally certified representing 15% of cohort,
 - g. Twenty-two (22) females are internationally certified representing 17% of cohort,
 - h. Two (2) females are internationally (gold) certified representing 1.5% of cohort.

The committee will be investigating next steps as opportunities for female coaches over the next several months.

3. Poor coach behavior at tournaments. Marc Vink has reached out to Dr. Gary Berliner for appropriate contact within the Referee Commission for possible solutions and educational trainings.

Meeting minutes prepared by Marc P. Vink, Ed. D., Committee Chair