



SENIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

2026

MAY 9-10 • ALBUQUERQUE, NM



WELCOME TO THE 2026 USA JUDO SENIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS



USA Judo is pleased to welcome you to the USA Judo Senior National Championships in Albuquerque, NM. Competition will take place at the Albuquerque Convention Center and will feature the best athletes in the country going for gold.

Know Before You Go

Tournament Host:	USA Judo		
Sanctioning Organization:	USA Judo		
Tournament Contact:	Eric Tschudy: 719.339.0937, Eric.Tschudy@usajudo.us		
Online Registration:	usajudo.sport80.com		
Live Results:	usajudo.smoothcomp.com		
Pointable Categories:	Senior, IJF-Junior, Veterans, Visually Impaired		
Non-Pointable Categories:	Brown Belt, Novice, Kata		
Tournament Site:	Albuquerque Convention Center 401 2 nd St NW Albuquerque, NM 87102		
Host Hotel:	DoubleTree by Hilton Albuquerque Convention Center 201 Marquette Ave NW Albuquerque, NM 87102		
Key Dates:	Fri., May 8 Shiai Weigh-In (Senior Elite, Veterans, VI, IJF-Junior, Brown Belt and Novice) Referees, Coaches and Technical Officials Meetings USA Judo Board of Directors Meeting USA Judo Sub-Committee Meetings	Sat., May 9 Shiai Competition (Senior Elite, Veterans, VI, IJF-Junior, Brown Belt and Novice) Kata Registration / Check-In	Sun., May 10 Kata Competition
Chief Referee:	Hector Estevez		
First-Time Competitors	Click here to view tips for athletes competing at their first national event.		

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Deadlines and Entry Fees

Shiai

Deadline	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3 or more
Early Online Registration: March 12 (4:00 p.m. MT)	\$90	\$90	\$60
Regular Online Registration: April 9 (4:00 p.m. MT)	\$110	\$110	\$80
Late Online Registration: April 23 (4:00 p.m. MT)	\$150	\$150	\$120

Kata

Deadline	Category 1 (per person)	Category 2 (per person)	Category 3 (per person)	4+ Categories (per person)
Early Online Registration: March 12 (4:00 p.m. MT)	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$40
Regular Online Registration: April 9 (4:00 p.m. MT)	\$65	\$65	\$65	\$55
Late Online Registration: April 23 (4:00 p.m. MT)	\$75	\$75	\$75	\$65

- All registrations must be completed online. No paper registrations.
- **On-line registrations will not be accepted after Thursday, April 24 at 11:59 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 the athlete's birth certificate/passport and rank certificate connor.jenkins@usajudo.us. Verifications will only be processed during normal business hours, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. MT.
- Entry fee is waived for defending 2025 Senior Shiai Champion and 2025 NCJA National Champion if competing in the same weight in which won. Defending Champions seeking to compete with an entry fee waiver must contact Eric Tschudy at eric.tschudy@usajudo.us by April 24th, 2026.
- Entry into subsequent categories must be for same athlete.
- Entry fees are non-refundable and non-transferable
- **Absolutely no changes will be accepted after April 24th, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. MT.**

Schedule of Events

(Subject to Change)

Thursday, May 7	Albuquerque Convention Center – West Building Lower Level
8 a.m.	Male Test Scales (Isleta –Room 19) Female Test Scales (Navajo – Room 25) (Test scales open through Saturday evening)
Friday, May 8	Albuquerque Convention Center
9 a.m.	USA Judo Board of Directors Meeting (Anasazi – Room 10)
12 p.m. – 4 p.m.	USA Judo Subcommittee Meetings (Cochiti –18 and Laguna - 20)
12 p.m.	Preliminary List of Athletes Posted: usajudo.smoothcomp.com
3 – 4:30 p.m.	Coach & Referee Meeting (Hall 2 on Mats)
4:15 – 5:15 p.m.	Technical Officials Meeting (Cochiti – Room 18)
4:00– 4:45 p.m.	Veteran, Brown Belt, Novice, VI Athletes Meeting (Laguna - 20)
4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Tournament check-in / changes for all competitors (Check in only if there is a change in category or weight) NO WALK-UP REGISTRATION
5 – 7:00 p.m.	Shiai Weigh-In: Senior, VI, Veterans, IJF-Juniors, Novice, and Brown Belts Male Official Weigh-In (Jemez – Room 21) Female Official Weigh-In (Nambe – Room 23)
7 p.m.	Draws Posted: usajudo.smoothcomp.com
Saturday, May 9	Albuquerque Convention Center – Hall 2
7 a.m.	Doors Open
7:15 a.m.	Referees Meeting (Crystal Ballroom in the Hilton DoubleTree)
8:15 a.m.	Competition begins (Senior Elite, Visually Impaired)
45 minutes after the conclusion of all regular and/or bronze medal	Opening Ceremony
	Senior Shiai Gold Medal Finals (Gold/Silver contests only) Finals to be followed by medals presentation for gold, silver and bronze Senior Shiai medalists
12:15 p.m. (Estimated)	IJF-Juniors, Novice, Brown Belts and Veteran Competition begins following the conclusion of Senior Finals
1 - 2 p.m.	Kata Check-in [in-person or by proxy is allowed] (Laguna – 20)
Sunday, May 10	Albuquerque Convention Center
7 a.m.	Doors Open

8:15 a.m.

Kata Competition Begins

TBD

Kata Feedback/Clinic immediately following awards

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. HOWEVER, ATHLETES COMPETING IN THE SENIOR, VETERAN, OR VISUALLY IMPAIRED CATEGORY MUST WEIGH-IN DURING THE EVENING WEIGH-IN SESSION.

The tournament staff and officials reserve 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

Age	One Day
13+	\$15.00
9-12	\$12.00
8 and Under	Free

Headquarters Hotel

Headquarters: DoubleTree by Hilton at Albuquerque Convention Center
201 Marquette Ave NW
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Rate: Deluxe Queen: \$164 plus tax and fees
Reservations: [Click here](#) to book online

Deadline Date: Book by April 5th, 2026, to receive discounted rates.

Rooms go fast so it is best to book as early as possible.

Transportation

Air Transportation: The nearest airport – Albuquerque International Sunport (Code ABQ) – is located approximately 9 minutes from the host hotel and event venue and is a 4.6-mile drive

Ground Transportation: The DoubleTree by Hilton Albuquerque is across the street from the Albuquerque Convention Center (1-minute walk). Parking information 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 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 with 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.

Forbidden apparel: flip flops, sandals, shorts, hats.

Referee Event Registration

All referees must first register on the USA Judo Referee Information website, 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 and click on Events. Select the 2026 USA Judo Senior National Championships and follow prompts to register.

If you do not register or are not confirmed through the 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 a trials. Athletes may compete if they meet the eligibility requirements, submit the required documentation, pay the required fees and there is no conflict regarding weigh-in and competition schedules.

In addition, all athletes must have been born December 31, 2011 or earlier or have obtained the appropriate Age Waiver. See <https://www.usajudo.com/athletes/juniors/usa-judo-age-waiver-information> for more information. All Age Waiver applications must be sent to Jim Hrbek at judolym@aol.com by April 21, 2026.

Per the USA Judo Athlete / Event Payment Policy, any individual who has an outstanding debt 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.

Citizenship Requirements

Senior Elite and IJF-Junior (All Categories Except Open), Visually Impaired

- 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 Junior refugee.

Senior Open, IJF-Junior Open, Veterans, Brown Belt, Novice, Kata Categories

- U.S. citizens
- Athletes with Permanent Resident Cards (Green Cards) or visas
- 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 request an invitation letter and submit an approval letter from their home federation to connor.jenkins@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.

Additional Eligibility Requirements

Note: All ranks must be verified through USA Judo.

Senior Elite Shiai Category (except Open Category)

- Minimum rank of senior sankyu.
- Athletes participating in the Senior Elite Shiai divisions must not have represented another country at a Senior Continental Championship or higher level within the past three years from the date of the Senior Nationals.

Senior Elite Open Category

- Minimum rank of senior sankyu.

IJF-Junior Categories

- Born 2006-2011
- No minimum rank required.

Visually Impaired Category

- Must have been classified as visually impaired at an IBSA or IPC event in the past 10 years or provide a letter from an optometrist or ophthalmologist verifying visual acuity.
- Competitors will be divided by classification and weight category. A meeting will be held on Friday, May 23 as noted in the schedule to create exhibition categories as needed. All exhibition events are not eligible for points.
- Classification: USA Judo has adopted the updated visual classifications as presented by the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) for all events which include Para-sport divisions. These classifications are as follows:
 - 1. J1 - an athlete's vision impairment must result in a visual acuity of less than or equal to LogMAR 2.6 in binocular vision, with correction.
 - 2. J2 - The athlete's vision acuity must be within a range between LogMAR 1.3 and 2.5 with binocular vision, or with a binocular visual field of 60 degrees or less in diameter, with correction.

For more information, please visit <https://ibsajudo.sport/about-judo/classification/>. Acuity must be confirmed by an ophthalmologist prior to competition. [Click here](#) to download the verification of visual impairment form. If this is the first time you are participating in a Para category at a USA Judo national event and need to be classified, or if you have any questions on classifications. Please contact Heidi Moore at judoheidi@comcast.net or 303-591-9563.

Veterans Category

1. Minimum rank of senior sankyu.
2. Age is determined by year of birth. Minimum year of birth is 1996.

Age from	Age to	YOB from	YOB to	Female	Male
30	34	1996	1992	F1	M1
35	39	1991	1987	F2	M2
40	44	1986	1982	F3	M3
45	49	1981	1977	F4	M4
50	54	1976	1972	F5	M5
55	59	1971	1967	F6	M6
60	64	1966	1962	F7	M7
65	69	1961	1957	F8	M8
70	74	1956	1952	F9	M9
75	79	1951	1947	F10	M10
80	+	1946		F11	M11

Brown Belt Category

1. Brown Belt (any level) or green belt (Ikkyu) or purple (Ikkyu)

Novice Category

1. Only ranks other than black or brown belts.

Kata Category

1. Open to all ranks.
2. Athletes competing in the U21 Open category must be born in 2005 or later.
3. Athletes competing in the U17 Open category must be born in 2009 or later.
4. Additional details regarding the kata competition can be found in the Kata Categories section of this entry packet.

Shiai Weight Divisions

Able-bodied Divisions:

Female: -48 kg, -52 kg, -57 kg, -63 kg, -70 kg, -78 kg, +78 kg, Open

Male: -60 kg, -66 kg, -73 kg, -81 kg, -90 kg, -100 kg, +100 kg, Open

Visually Impaired Divisions (J1 and J2 classifications will compete separately):

Female: -46 kg (non-paralympic), -52 kg, -60 kg, -70 kg, +70kg, Open

Male: -64 kg (non-paralympic), -70 kg, -81 kg, -95kg, +95 kg, Open

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.

Kata Categories

Kata National Championships will be conducted in accordance with the current procedures of USA Judo. The IJF criteria will be applied with the exception of an IJF-label judo gi and back patch are not necessary for a correct judo gi.

The 2026 Kata National Championships will include the following categories: Senior Open, Senior Intermediate, U21 Open (athletes born 2005 or later), U17 Open (athletes born 2009 or later), and Adaptive (para-kata). The Intermediate category is targeted at developing teams. Teams who have competed at the international level are not eligible for the Intermediate category in that kata (division).

- Former USA kata team members can only compete in the U21 Open or Senior Open category in their internationally competed Kata(s).
- If a player has previously medaled in a Sr Nationals Open category in a kata, they cannot compete at the intermediate level in that kata.

Each division within each category will be a combined division irrespective of gender. Example: For the division of Nage-no-kata in the category of U21 Open, the division will include all kata teams irrespective of gender (that is, male, female and mixed teams will compete together).

Divisions in each category (Open, Intermediate, U21, U17 and Adaptive) are as follows:

Senior Open	Senior Intermediate	U21 Open	U17 Open	Adaptive (para-kata)
Nage no Kata	Nage no Kata	Nage no Kata	Nage no Kata	Nage no Kata
Katame no Kata	Katame no Kata	Katame no Kata	Katame no Kata	Katame no Kata
Ju no Kata	Ju no Kata	Ju no Kata	Ju no Kata	Ju no Kata
Kodokan Goshin Jutsu		Kodokan Goshin Jutsu		
Isutsu no Kata				
Kime no Kata				
Koshiki no Kata				

An athlete may only enter each division once. Examples: An athlete may not enter Open Nage-no-kata with two different partners. An athlete may enter Open Nage-no-kata and Intermediate Nage-no-kata with two different partners, if the skill level is appropriate.

Teams in the Senior and U21 Open categories will have first consideration for USA teams for the IJF Kata World Championships and PJC Pan American Kata Championships. Note: Athletes seeking to compete in international competition must meet that event's criteria, including age eligibility criteria.

Adaptive (para-kata)

- Athletes that require special accommodations, please contact eric.tschudy@usajudo.us for arrangement.
- All athletes will receive an achievement medal.

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, athletes competing in Senior Elite, IJF-Junior and Visually Impaired 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.

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.

Athletes who miss weight during official weigh-in, will not be allowed to compete.

NO CHANGES WILL BE ACCEPTED AT WEIGH IN.

Check In

Check in only if you have a change to your weight or category. 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. Athletes must declare their USA Judo club no later than 7 p.m. Mountain Time on May 8, 2026.

Credentials

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

Confirmation of Categories / Draw

A preliminary list of athletes by category/weight will be available at <https://usajudo.smoothcomp.com>. 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 4 p.m. on May 8th, 2026. All corrections must be emailed to Vaughn.Anderson@usajudo.us and eric.tschudy@usajudo.us or submitted in person onsite. **PHONE CALLS OR TEXTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**
- Corrections will be processed, then the draw will be run. 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.

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 this tournament. The exception to the IJF rules will be the usage of the competition methods for Veterans and IJF-Junior and categories and the match time for Veterans.

1. Points on the USA Judo National Roster will be awarded in Senior, Veteran, Visually Impaired and IJF-Junior categories only as outlined in the respective criteria. Criteria can be found at www.usjudo.org.
2. Athletes may only enter one weight per eligible category with the exception of Open weight, if applicable.
3. Shime-waza is allowed for all shiai categories except novice category and veteran categories for athletes in the 60 and older age groups.
4. Kansetsu-waza is allowed for all categories except novice category.

Match Lengths

Senior, IJF-Junior, Visually Impaired, Brown Belt and Novice Categories

- Male: 4 minutes
- Female: 4 minutes
- No Golden Score time limit

Veteran Categories

- M1 / F1-M6 / F6: 3 minute time limit, plus 2 minutes Golden Score
- M7/F7-M10/F10: 2 minute time limit, plus 1 minute Golden Score

Competition Method:

Senior, VI Categories

Categories having (4) competitors or greater: Modified Double Elimination with Two Bronzes. All athletes are guaranteed 2 matches. After first loss, players will drop to the losers' pool and cross over to fight for bronze medals. The 2 finalists will fight for first and second. (CATEGORIES WITH ONLY 4 ATHLETES WILL ONLY RECEIVE 1 BRONZE MEDAL)

Categories having three (3) Competitors or less: Round Robin Pool (every competitor competes against every other competitor). The order of finish is determined by number of wins, then, if tied, by total points. If tied in wins and points, the winner of the head-to-head competition between the two who are still tied determines the winner. If three or more are still tied in wins and points for any place (first, second, or third), those contestants involved must contest again to determine the order of finish. Points are given to the winner only and shall be based on the highest single score of the winner, after factoring out scores that cancel out each other. Point values are Ippon= 10, Waza-ari= 7, Yuko= 3, win by shido=0. If a contestant withdraws from a division prior to the beginning of his or her final match, the results of all that person's previous matches shall be discarded.

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.

IJF-Junior, Brown Belt, Novice, Veteran Categories

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 two and under contestants, round robin will be the method of competition.

Seeding

Senior Only: The top four athletes on the USA Judo Senior National Roster, who are in attendance, will be seeded, provided that they are ranked at A through D levels as follows: A (or B) side: #1 and #4 in one half, #2 and #3 in the other half. A higher seeded athlete will always receive a bye before a lower seeded athlete.

Athletes having the same state affiliation will be placed as far apart in the bracket as possible. Seeded athletes lose their State/Club affiliation for purposes of the draw, i.e., two athletes from the same state or club may meet in the first round if one is a seeded athlete.

IJF-Junior only: 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.

Seeded athletes will be separated as far as possible in their sections of the draw and will receive byes if available. A higher seeded athlete will always receive a bye before a lower seeded athlete.

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)

Multiple Category Entries

For those athletes who elect to compete in multiple categories, efforts will be made to separate the competition times, but this cannot be guaranteed and a decision may need to be made by the competitor as to the match in which they compete, thereby forfeiting one of the two matches. If categories are competing at the same time, the athlete must move from one category (on mat) to their waiting category with no rest time. 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.

Senior Nationals Prize Money Overview

Thanks to the generous donations from members of the USA Judo community, prize money will be awarded for Senior Elite competitions at the 2026 Senior National Championships in Albuquerque, NM as follows:

Senior National Championships

Athletes competing in the Olympic weight divisions in the Senior Elite category will be eligible for prize money for gold, silver and bronze medal finishes.

Eligible Categories (Senior Elite Only):	
Men's 60 kg, 66 kg, 73 kg, 81 kg, 90 kg, 100 kg and +100 kg	
Women's 48 kg, 52 kg, 57 kg, 63 kg, 70 kg, 78 kg and +78 kg	
Place Per Weight Class	Prize
1st	\$500
2nd	\$250
3rd	\$125 (per bronze medal awarded)

Payments for prize money will be sent via ACH (Bill.com) within 30 days after the conclusion of the event.

Awards

Individual Awards

Gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded for first, second and third places for all divisions. Note: True double events will be awarded one bronze. Double repechage events will be awarded two bronzes.

All senior shiai medals will be awarded following the conclusion of Senior finals.

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

Team Awards

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

1. Regular and Brown Belt Categories

- a. 1st place 750 points
- b. 2nd place 450 points
- c. 3rd place 150 points

2. Novice Categories

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

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

Criteria:

- Club affiliation will be club listed with athlete's entry in event (as confirmed in their USA Judo profile).
- Any clubs found that have athletes associated to their club where the athlete is not actively participating in dojo activities will lose their team points and will not be eligible to participate in the Team Awards for five (5) years.
- All teams must hold a current USA Judo club membership. Athletes must declare their USA Judo club no later than 7 p.m. Mountain Time on May 8, 2026.
- Champion Banners suitable for hanging in the host club will be mailed to the top three teams after the competition, or if preferred, presented in person at the following USA Judo national event.

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 and/or remove the signage.

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

Senior and Visually Impaired Shiai Only:

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. Also, be sure to download the Supplement 411 app or visit 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.

APPENDIX:



RANK VERIFICATION
BROWN BELT – SENIOR ELITE
CATEGORIES

I, _____, a certified USA Judo
Instructor/Coach, hereby certify that,

_____, currently holding the rank of

_____, is of sufficient aptitude and
skill in judo to compete in the Brown Belt or Senior Elite or the Veteran
category at the 2026 Senior National Championships.

Printed Name of Judo Instructor/Coach

Signature of Judo Instructor/Coach

Date

Signature of Parent (if athlete is under 18 years of age)

Date