

Bylaws of Judo Illinois, NFP

2026

ARTICLE I — NAME, PURPOSE, AND AFFILIATION

Section 1. Name

The name of the corporation shall be **Judo Illinois, NFP** (the "Corporation"), an Illinois not-for-profit corporation.

Section 2. Purpose

The Corporation exists to promote, develop, govern, and support the sport and educational values of judo throughout the State of Illinois.

Section 3. Affiliation

The Corporation shall serve as the Illinois Group B member organization recognized under the bylaws and policies of USA Judo, subject to continued recognition.

ARTICLE II — MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Classes of Membership

Membership shall consist of:

1. Organizational Members (clubs, schools, or other qualifying judo organizations);
2. Individual Members; and
3. Honorary Members (An individual who has been awarded special recognition by the Board of Directors of this Organization because of distinguished service to Judo).

Section 2. Good Standing

Members must satisfy dues, eligibility, and conduct requirements established by the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Organizational Members

Any bona fide judo club, educational institution, or permanent organization actively promoting judo in Illinois may apply for membership.

New groups applying for membership shall have at least five (5) individual members. At least one member shall have a minimum recognized rank of shodan (first degree black belt) by USA Judo, USJF or USJA.

Section 4. Individual Members

Any athlete, coach, instructor, referee, administrator, volunteer, or supporter of amateur judo may apply for membership.

ARTICLE III — BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. Authority

The affairs of the Corporation shall be governed by a Board of Directors (the "Board"). The Board shall establish policy, approve budgets, oversee officers, and exercise all powers permitted by law and these bylaws.

Section 2. Composition

The Board shall consist of:

1. One voting representatives designated by Organizational Member in good standing; and
2. The elected Officers of the Corporation.

Section 3. Club Representation

Each Organizational Member in good standing shall be entitled to one voting representative. Additional voting representatives may be granted based on membership levels established by Board policy.

Non-voting - Youth members and supporters (booster).

Section 4. No Proxy Voting

Proxy voting is prohibited.

Section 5. Voting Rights

Each seated director and member of the Executive Committee will be entitled to one vote; however, the President will not cast his or her vote except in the case of a tie.

ARTICLE IV — OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers

The officers shall be:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer

Section 2. Eligibility

Officers must be at least eighteen (18) years old and members in good standing.

President and Vice President qualifications: Shodan (1st degree black belt) or equivalent leadership experience

Secretary and Treasurer qualifications: no rank required, member in good standing

Section 3. Election and Term

Officers shall be elected by the Board every two (2) years and shall serve until successors are elected.

A Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the President prior to adjournment of the biannual meeting that immediately precedes the election meeting and will select a slate of candidates, one candidate per office, to be placed in nomination at the election meeting.

Officers shall be elected by majority vote, a quorum being present.

Section 4. Vacancies

Any vacancy may be filled by majority vote of the Board until the next regular election.

ARTICLE V — DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. President

The President shall serve as chief executive officer, preside at meetings, and carry out Board directives.

Section 2. Vice President

The Vice President shall perform duties assigned by the President or Board and act in the President's absence.

Section 3. Secretary

The Secretary shall maintain records, minutes, notices, and official documents.

Section 4. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall oversee finances, reports, filings, accounts, and budgets.

The Treasurer shall file all reports that are necessary to maintain Judo Illinois non-profit Organization status with both federal and state entities and present written verification to that effect to the Executive Committee.

The Treasurer shall provide a written financial report at each regular meeting of the Board of Directors, including current account balances, income and expenses, and budget-to-actual comparisons.

ARTICLE VI — EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. Composition

The Executive Committee shall consist of the elected officers and up to three Members-at-Large appointed by the Board.

Section 2. Authority

Between Board meetings, the Executive Committee may act on routine matters subject to later Board review. It may not amend bylaws, remove directors, or take actions reserved to the Board.

ARTICLE VII — MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular Meetings

The Board shall meet at least twice annually.

A meeting of elections shall be held in the first quarter of every other year.

Section 2. Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called by the President or by one-third of the Board.

Section 3. Notice

At least thirty (30) days' notice shall be given for regular meetings and fourteen (14) days for special meetings, unless emergency circumstances exist.

Section 4. Quorum

A quorum shall consist of twenty-five percent (25%) of currently seated voting directors and at least two officers.

Section 5. Remote Meetings

Meetings may be conducted in person or by electronic means permitted under Illinois law.

ARTICLE VIII — COMMITTEES

The Board may establish standing or special committees, including:

Section 1. Referee and Officials Committee (Chair qualifications - N3)

The committee shall:

- a. Supervise and/or conduct the training, examination, certification, and selection of judges, referees, and other tournament officials.
- b. Suggest revisions to the International Rules of Competition for consideration by USA Judo;
- c. Establish and maintain a listing of all certified referees, judges and officials for members to access for league competitions;
- d. Aid in the development of Illinois referees by scheduling and promoting at least one referee clinic per year

Section 2. Rank and Promotion Committee (Chair qualifications - Yondan)

The committee shall:

- a. have the authority over all matters relating to belt rank brought to its attention;
- b. promote up to the highest rank authorized by USA Judo in accordance with the guidelines for promotion established by USA Judo;
- c. schedule belt rank testing dates and curriculum;
- d. submit promotional documentation to USA Judo for athlete certification;
- e. submit promotional recommendations to USA Judo for ranks that require USA Judo national committee authorization.;

Section 3. Development and Coaching Committee (Chair qualifications - IJF Academy or equivalent)

The committee shall:

- a. advise and assist the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors and all other components of the Organization in all matters concerning the long-range development of Judo;
- b. prepare and present to the Executive Committee a budget for the development committee;
- c. aid in the development of Illinois Judokas by scheduling training camps and developmental clinics, and developing methods and techniques to improve competitive achievement;
- d. Aid in the development of Illinois coaches by scheduling and promoting coaching clinics.

Section 4. Public Relations Committee (Chair qualifications - member in good standing)

The committee shall:

- a. Acquaint those outside the Organization with the true spirit and art of Judo and the benefits to be derived from participation in Judo and cooperation with this Organization;
- b. advise and assist with all publications of the Organization;
- c. make recommendations to the Executive Committee as to ways and means to increase the effectiveness and prestige of the Organization;
- d. advise and assist members of the Organization in public relations matters;
- e. develop communications and contacts with the public media for the furtherance of Judo.

Section 5. Standards and Rules Committee

The committee shall:

- a. maintain up-to-date rules and regulations that shall apply to Judo tournaments held in the State of Illinois;
- b. modify rules and regulations for tournaments held in the State of Illinois as needed so long as they do not contradict the basic rules and regulations set by USA Judo;
- c. monitor and maintain standards set by USA Judo and the International Judo Federation (IJF) to ensure that Judo Illinois athletes and coaches are aware and abide by the standards, rules and regulations when competing and coaching at venues outside the State of Illinois;

Committee chairs shall be appointed by the President subject to Board approval.

ARTICLE IX — INTERIM FOUNDING COMMITTEE

Upon incorporation, the Founding Committee shall serve as the interim Board of Directors and interim officers of the Corporation for a period not to exceed two (2) years from the date of incorporation.

During this interim period, the Founding Committee shall possess the authority otherwise granted to the Board under these bylaws.

Before expiration of the two-year period, the Corporation shall conduct its first regular election for officers and directors in accordance with these bylaws.

Former Founding Committee members may serve in advisory capacities upon Board invitation.

ARTICLE X — DISCIPLINE AND APPEALS

The Board may suspend, discipline, or terminate membership for cause after written notice and a reasonable opportunity to be heard. The Board may adopt grievance and appeal procedures consistent with fairness and due process.

Any officer may be removed from office by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the Board, a quorum being present, whenever the best interests of the Corporation would be served thereby.

ARTICLE XI — FINANCE

Section 1. Fiscal Oversight

The Board shall approve an annual budget.

The Organization shall operate within the annual budget approved by the Board of Directors. Any material deviation from the approved budget shall require review and approval by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Signatures

The Board shall establish financial controls including authorized signers and dual-approval thresholds

Section 3. Filings

The Organization shall maintain complete and accurate financial records in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

All required federal and state filings shall be completed in a timely manner.

The Board of Directors may require an independent financial review or audit by a certified public accountant whenever deemed necessary or when required by law.

ARTICLE XII — AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the directors present and entitled to vote at any meeting where at least thirty (30) days' prior written notice of the proposed amendment has been given.

ARTICLE XIII — CONFLICTS, ANTI-TAKEOVER, INDEMNIFICATION, AND DISSOLUTION

Section 1. Conflicts of Interest

Directors and officers shall disclose actual or potential conflicts of interest and shall refrain from voting on matters in which they have a material personal or financial interest.

Section 2. Anti-takeover

No amendment affecting voting rights, elections, or board size may take effect within sixty (60) days of an election.

Section 3. Indemnification


To the fullest extent permitted by Illinois law, the Corporation may indemnify directors, officers, committee members, and volunteers acting in good faith on behalf of the Corporation.

Section 3. Dissolution


Upon dissolution, assets remaining after liabilities shall be distributed exclusively for charitable or amateur sports purposes consistent with Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, with preference to a qualified successor Illinois judo organization recognized by USA Judo, or otherwise to USA Judo or another qualified nonprofit organization supporting amateur judo.

CERTIFICATION


These bylaws were duly adopted by the Board of Directors of Judo Illinois, NFP on May 31, 2026, and supersedes all prior bylaws.

Board 1: 
[Grace Talusan \(May 31, 2026 14:33:05 CDT\)](#)

gracetalusan@comcast.net

Board 2: 
[Ann Berends \(Jun 1, 2026 11:59:50 CDT\)](#)

ann.berends@gmail.com

Board 3: 
[San Hauptmann \(Jun 1, 2026 22:53:23 GMT+2\)](#)

sanihauptmann@gmail.com