



Judo Illinois, Inc.

Inaugural Meeting - May 31, 2026 1:00PM-1:39PM CDT

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM.

2. Attendance/ Roll call

Founding Committee:

- Grace Talusan (Interim President) - **Kokushi Midwest Judo**
- Ann Berends (Interim Vice President) – **Bender Martial Arts**
- Sandra Hauptmann (Interim Secretary) – **Tohkon Judo Academy**

Attendees 13 clubs / 17 people (*Clubs not registered with Judo Illinois)

Barrington Judo Club

1. Mike Minton

Beverly Pagoda Martial Arts Academy

1. Ken Kates

Chicago Tenri

1. Kei Narimatsu
2. Steve Yeung

Evolution Dojo

1. Maje Omagbaluwage
2. Stephen A. Smith
3. Francesca Inman

European Judo Academy

1. Grigory Eremeev

Godai Judo Club*

1. Alex Murray

Kokushi Midwest Judo

1. Ernie Saunders

Lakeside BJJ*

1. Shingo Uto

Marion Pal Club Judo

1. Stephen Bergren

Menomonee Judo Club

1. Scott Goldstein

Mikuta Martial Arts

1. Chris Mikuta

Powersource Martial Arts

1. Representative

Tohkon Judo Academy*

1. Doug Tono
2. Felix Lanier

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Unknown club/phone

1. I Phone 21 (not included in total count of club/ attendees)

3. Opening Remarks

Interim President Grace Talusan welcomed all participants and provided an overview of the mission and purpose behind the founding of Judo Illinois.

Interim Vice-President Ann Berends introduced the agenda and informed attendees that the meeting was being recorded.

4. Community Remarks

Kei Narimatsu:

- Expressed recognition and appreciation for the founding members' efforts.
- Emphasized the importance of broad engagement across Illinois dojos.
- Recommended organizing a future meeting with as many clubs as possible.
- Highlighted that success depends on statewide support from the judo community.

5. Transition from Previous Organization

Mike Minton:

- Shared his long-term involvement with the previous Illinois Judo organization.
- Provided an update on the transition of responsibilities and structure.

Motion: To transfer **\$20,704.20** in assets to Judo Illinois.

- **Motion** by: Mike Minton
- **Seconded** by: Maje Omagbaluwage
- **Result:** Passed unanimously

6. Strategic Vision

Interim President Grace Talusan presented:

- The strategic reasoning behind establishing Judo Illinois
- Long-term goals and planning approach

7. Agenda Overview & Key Topics

a. Interim Administration

Overview of the current leadership structure during the formation phase.

b. 12-Month Strategic Plan

Key initiatives include:

- **Coaching Clinic:** Targeting late August
 - Quick words on future changes to certification rules from Grace
 - **Rules Clinic:** Date TBD

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- **Elections:** To be held within 12–24 months, per bylaws

c. Promotion Requirements & Procedures

- Initial framework introduced (details to be further refined).
- Grace gave a quick update on the processes and that the interim team will serve until a committee can be formed
- Plan is by Q1 2027 to have a Promotion chair in place

d. Fundraising / Donations

- Discussion on fundraising strategies
- Alex Murray inquired about endowment models, referencing Michigan's success
- Kei Narimatsu and Mike Minton shared positive insights based on experience

e. Illinois State Championships

- Target year: **2027**
- Grace emphasized that we will need everyone to pitch in.

f. Judo Calendar & Event Promotion

- **Ann Berends** Emphasis on centralized event coordination and visibility
- Provided an update on website and Facebook presence (currently under development)
- Encouraged submission of content and event information
- Contact email: **info@judoillinois.org**

8. Bylaws Approval

Discussion:

- Bylaws recognized as a foundational document requiring collaborative input
- Proposal to continue to examine through a dedicated working group

Motion: To approve the draft bylaws and establish a committee of interested members to review and refine them

Target timeline: completion within 3 months

- **Motion by:** Mike Minton
- **Seconded by:** Kei Narimatsu
- **Result:** Passed unanimously

9. Q&A Session

No questions were raised.

10. Closing Remarks

- Interim President Grace Talusan reaffirmed Judo IL's mission to unite and support the Illinois judo community

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at **1:39 PM**.

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