



A STRATEGIC RESET FOR JUDO IN ILLINOIS



VISION STATEMENT

BUILDING THE FUTURE OF JUDO IN ILLINOIS

WHY JUDO ILLINOIS?

FILL THE VOID

Illinois Judo, Inc disappeared and created indifference amongst clubs and judoka. Judo Illinois exists to restore that leadership with absolute transparency.

A FRESH START

Starting fresh is more efficient and sustainable than attempting to repair Illinois Judo, Inc. We are building a compliant 501(c)(3) aligned with USA Judo standards.

LEADERSHIP & INTEGRITY



THE INTERIM COMMITTEE

We have formed an interim committee of experienced judoka dedicated to setting the initial course. This body operates with full accountability to the club directors and USA Judo requirements.

Grace Talusan - Kokushi Midwest Judo

Ann Berends - Bender Martial Arts

Sandra Hauptmann - Tohkon Judo Academy

| APPROVAL OF BYLAWS

[DRAFT Bylaws of Judo Illinois 2026](#)

| UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Official Statement from Illinois Judo, Inc.
Mike Minton, Barrington Judo Club

OUR STRATEGIC PILLARS



GOVERNANCE

Establishing a foundation and the return of resources for clubs and coaches within Judo Illinois.



GROWTH

Increasing club membership and establishing a sustainable financial foundation.



EXCELLENCE

Increase opportunities that support the development of athletes and coaches in the state.

| THE CURRENT STATE

24 LOCAL CLUBS

597 Members

243 Adults

354 Kids

Our primary goal is to provide these 24 clubs with the support they need to thrive.



CLUBS IN ILLINOIS

AXT Jiu Jitsu
Barakah Judo IL (28)
Bender Martial Arts
Beverly Pagoda Martial Arts
Chicago Tenri (45)
Cohen Brothers Judo Club
(132)
European Judo Club (64)
Evolution Dojo (21)
Fox Valley Judo
Hussars Judo
JS Martial Arts Inc
Kokushi Midwest Judo (12)
Midwest Jiu Jitsu Academy

Mikuta Martial Arts
Oak Lawn Park District Judo
Club (16)
Oak Tree Judo Club
Power Source Martial Arts
Pride Martial Arts
Quad City Judo & Fitness
Ronin Jiu Jitsu & Judo
Academy
Sequence Judo, LLC
Wolf Judo (56)
Wolves Judo Academy
Yu-Tora Judo

**Missing clubs because of
“action required”:**
Barrington Judo Club
TrustBJJ

3 USJF Clubs not listed
4 USJA Clubs not listed

ON THE HORIZON for 2026/2027

EVENT #1: Coaching Clinic with Brett Wolf (late summer)

EVENT #2: Referee Clinic with Alex Murray (TBD)

EVENT #3: Promotions (ongoing)

ULTIMATE GOAL: Return of Illinois State Championships



COACHING CLINIC

CURRENT STANDARDS

- Currently, there are no upgrades to coaching certifications (new standards will be introduced in 2027)
- Must be a current USA Judo Member with Safesport, Concussion Training, and Background check.
- Minimum rank is ikkyu
- Our goal for 2026 is just to get everyone re-certified if needed.

New in 2027

- New program and New ranking system
- Asst. Club, Club, Regional, National levels
- If you want to go beyond national, then you complete IJF Academy
- If you have international or international gold, it will be grandfathered in for 2 years, then you have to complete IJF Academy



PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES

If you want to be a recognized USA Judo Black belt:

- Must be a current USA Judo member, must have Safesport, Concussion Training and a background check (Sport80 platform)
- Must have an ikkyu club rank certificate
- Must have a competition record
- Perform techniques according to [USA Judo Standards](#)
- Must do required technique and kata demonstration in front of interim committee.

[USA Judo Promotion Standards](#)

No exceptions!!

We want the promotions to be a positive learning experience. Shodan is only the beginning.

We can promote up to Sandan.

Yodan and above must have full application submitted to the National Board. Meetings occur at Senior Nationals (May) and President's Cup (November)

ELECTIONS (Q1 of 2027)

✓ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary



COMMITTEES:

Referee and Rules Committee
Development and Coaching Committee
Promotion and Rank Committee



OTHER POSSIBILITIES:

Tournament Committee
Public Outreach



Board of Directors:

Each club gets one representative.
Must be a current USA Judo Member
No proxy voting



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THE ROAD AHEAD

YEAR 2: EXPANSION

- New Board established
- Build up a core group of supporters
- Return of State Championships
- Regular events (clinics, co-workouts)
- New Coaching Standards

YEAR 5: LEADERSHIP

- Pathways and support for elite judoka
- Funding for elite judoka can be established through state tournament funds

YEAR 1: FOUNDATION

- Return of Governance
- Coaching Clinic
- Referee Clinic
- Promotions
- Elections

YEAR 3-4: INTEGRATION

- Camaraderie amongst clubs - USA, JF, JA
- Clubs have resources and support - USA, JF, JA
- Regular tournaments and events within Illinois

ILLINOIS STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS - 2027

Tournament Director

Venue

Mat Rentals

SmoothComp

Referees

Support Staff (Weigh In, Registration, etc)

Table workers

Mat captains

GROUP EFFORT!!!!



JudoIllinois.Org

email: info@judoillinois.org

Endowment fund

- 10% of profits from clinics go into fund.
- Support elite athlete development and travel

Investment funds

Capital Spending - venue rentals, equipment rental/purchase

