


Early and late registration for competition, training camp, coach clinic, coach credentials, and vendors **will all be online ONLY: [USOPENJUDO.COM](http://USOPENJUDO.COM)**

**For all Juniors: Juvenile and Intermediate weight divisions are changed for 2026!**

<p><b>2026 U.S. Open Judo Championships</b>  <b>Featuring Junior, Veteran, Senior</b>  <b>AND Junior Golden Score Events!</b>  <b>Competition July 24-26, 2026</b>  <b>Training Camp: July 27-29, 2026</b>  <b>36<sup>th</sup> Annual Junior Championship!!!</b></p>		<p>JUNIOR - SENIOR - VETERAN  <b>US OPEN</b>                    Held under the Sanction of                  USA JUDO (United States                  Judo, Inc.)</p>
<p><b>Competition live on streaming video.; Check <a href="http://usopenjudo.com">usopenjudo.com</a> for details.</b></p>		
Hosted by:	Panther Judo Club	
Sponsored by:	Greater Ft. Lauderdale Convention and Visitors Bureau and Florida Sports Foundation	
Tournament Hotels:	<b>HEADQUARTERS:</b> Hilton Fort Lauderdale Marina <b>Overflow #1:</b> Fort Lauderdale Marriott Harbor Beach Resort and Spa <b>Overflow #1:</b> Holiday Inn Express Ft. Lauderdale Cruise-Airport	
Tournament Site:	<b>Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center</b>	
Registration and Check-in:	<b>At HEADQUARTERS HOTEL:</b> July 22: 6:30 – 9:00 PM - <b>Early Registration/Check-in</b> July 23: 10 AM - 3:00 PM - <b>Registration/Check-in for ALL Athletes</b> <b>At TOURNAMENT SITE:</b> July 25: 10 AM-12 PM – <b>Seniors, Veterans, and Golden Score ONLY</b>	
Weigh-in:	<b>At HEADQUARTERS HOTEL:</b> July 23; 12-4 PM: Bantam-1, 3, 5, Intermediate, Cadet <b>ONLY</b> <b>At TOURNAMENT SITE:</b> July 24; 10 AM-12 PM: Bantam-2, 4, 6, Juvenile, IJF Junior <b>ONLY</b> Bantam, Intermediate, and Cadet athletes who move up in age <b>DO NOT</b> have to weigh in again on July 25. Cadets may weigh in again if they want a different IJF Junior weight division. July 25; 11:30 AM-1:30 PM: Seniors & Veterans <b>ONLY.</b> Cadets and IJF Junior athletes who plan to compete in the Senior Category <b>DO NOT</b> have to weigh in on July 25 unless planning to compete in a different weight division.	
Competition Dates: (At Convention Center; 9 AM start time each day)	July 24: Bantam-1, 3, 5, Intermediate, Cadet ( <b>USA Judo Junior Point Event</b> ) July 25: Bantam-2, 4, 6, Juvenile, IJF Junior ( <b>USA Judo Junior Point Event</b> ) July 26: Seniors, Veterans ( <b>USA Judo Senior Level Point and Veterans Point Events</b> ) July 26: Junior Golden Score ( <b>NOT a point event</b> ). To be run concurrently with Seniors and Veterans.	
Coach Certification Clinic; All Levels	July 22-23, <b>At the HEADQUARTERS HOTEL</b> conducted by USA Judo	
Training Camp:	July 27-29: <b>At the HEADQUARTERS HOTEL</b> for <b>ALL Athletes, Junior, Senior, and Veteran</b>	
Tournament Co-Directors:	Gerry Navarro and John Miller; Gerry: 16131 N.W. 12 Street; Pembroke Pines, FL; 33028; Email: <a href="mailto:USOpenjudo@gmail.com">USOpenjudo@gmail.com</a>	
Referee Comm:	To Be Determined	

**Early and late registration for competition, training camp, coach clinic, coach credentials, and vendors **will all be online ONLY: [USOPENJUDO.COM](http://USOPENJUDO.COM)****

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Pages	Section Title
3	New for 2026, Special Announcements and Clarifications
4	Eligibility for Junior, Senior, Veterans
5	Hotel Information, Tournament Site, Spectator Information
6	Early Registration, Entry Fees, Tournament Check-In
7-8	Rules
8	Confirmation Of Categories/Draw Procedures
9	Match Scheduling, Seeding of Athletes, Points, Coach Access
10	Method of Competition
10	Awards
11-12	Schedule of Events
13	Athlete Checklist
14	Junior Championship Information
15	Junior White-Yellow and White-Yellow-Orange Information
15-16	Junior Golden Score Information
17-18	Veterans Information
19	Seniors Information
20	Coach Credentials Information
21	Coach Certification Clinic Information
21	Junior Training Camp Information
21	Backpatch Mailing, Extra Patch Information
22	Outside Vendor Merchandise Sales Booth Information
23	Waiver and Release of Liability and Agreement to Participate

**Early and late registration for competition, training camp, coach clinic, coach credentials, and vendors will all be online ONLY: [USOPENJUDO.COM](http://USOPENJUDO.COM)**

## VERSION HISTORY

December, 10, 2015	Version #1 Released
February 20, 2026	Version #2 Released
April 26, 2026	Version #3 Released (revised Waiver only)

### NEW FOR 2026

The Veterans Team event will not be held in 2026

For all Juniors: Juvenile and Intermediate point weight divisions are changed for 2026 to conform with Pan American weight divisions; also lighter weight divisions for USA Judo points only are added.

### AGAIN FOR 2026

1. There is a Junior White-Yellow belt category for Bantam ages.
2. There is a Junior White-Yellow-Orange belt category for all other ages.
3. Tournament Directors reserve the right to modify Junior White-Yellow and White-Yellow-Orange eligibility in certain circumstances.
4. There is a Veteran Brown Belt and below category.
5. There is a Senior Below Brown Belt category.
6. Senior and Veteran athletes DO NOT have to “make” their declared weight. The athlete’s measured weight at weigh-in will determine the competition division.
7. Championship and White-Yellow, Bantam categories will be single-year groups, bantam 1-6.
8. IJF judogi requirements regarding sizing will be enforced for ALL CATEGORIES at this event. Athletes, coaches and parents should study these requirements at the following link: <https://www.ijf.org/documents> (look for IJF Judogi Rules - 24.04.2023 - ENG (Education And Coaching Commission))
9. White-Yellow and White-Yellow-Orange Categories once again are included. Juniors who enter these category must comply with additional qualifications. Violators are subject to disqualification.
10. For Veterans, the IJF oldest group is M/F-9, 70+ yrs but the USA Judo Veterans Committee has opted to include M/F-10 and 11 making the older group 80+ years. There will be no shime-waza allowed in groups M/F-7 and above. Refer to pages 16-17 for details
11. Athletes who need to change clothes should seek out a restroom, lockerroom, or designated area for changing.

### REMINDER FOR 2026

Junior athletes should carefully review the information regarding competing in multiple divisions on Page 15.

### CLARIFICATIONS

One FREE Backpatch with Country Code AND Athlete’s name will be included in each athlete’s registration package. Extra patches can be obtained for the following fees:

1. \$20 if ordered by June 18, 2026; no guarantee of arrival in time.

No shipping after June 18; patches must be picked up at Registration.

There will be **NO INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING** unless pre-arranged with tournament director.

Sewing lines at check-in can be quite long. Athletes may have the patch(es) mailed to them so that they can be sewn onto the judogi in advance for a \$5 shipping fee PER PATCH.

**If you decide to have your patch sewn at the tournament registration, there will be an \$18.00 fee.**

### MAAPP Policy

*The 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://docs.usajudo.net/SafeSport/2023/USA%20Judo%20Safe%20Sport%20Handbook.pdf>.*

## ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION FOR **JUNIOR, SENIORS, VETERANS**

### **Non U.S. Citizens; Juniors, Seniors, Veterans:**

- 1) Non-United States citizens who are residing in the United States legally (student VISA, valid Green Card, visitor's VISA, work VISA, etc.): Original documentation of legal residency must be presented during the registration process.
- 2) Athletes who are residing in the country of which they are a citizen: must present a letter to USA Judo from their country's federation stating that they are a member in good standing and have the Federation's permission to compete. Proof of Citizenship must be presented at Tournament Check-in. Passports are mandatory for all citizens of countries other than the United States.

### **United States Citizens; Juniors, Seniors, Veterans:**

A U.S. Citizen may participate if he or she is a current member in good standing of United States Judo, Inc. (usjudo.org). United States citizens must present either a passport, a birth certificate or verification of citizenship on a USA Judo membership card. **Note: USA athletes who wish to receive points on USA Judo's national point rosters, must be a member of USA Judo at the time of Registration/Check-in.**

### **Citizens of No Country; Juniors, Seniors, Veterans:**

Individuals who are not citizens of any country but are authorized by the Department of Justice of the United States to remain in the United States, may participate by meeting the criteria listed above for U.S. Citizens.

### **All JUNIOR Championship Athletes:**

All athletes must meet the age (born 2006 through 2021, inclusively) and weight requirements. Proof of age must be shown. All individuals must also submit all required documents and pay the appropriate entry fee. There is no minimum rank requirement for this event.

U. S. Citizens having questions regarding eligibility should contact; Mr. Gerry Navarro; Chairman, USA Judo's Junior Development Program via email: [Gerry.navarro@aol.com](mailto:Gerry.navarro@aol.com)

**All SENIOR Championship Athletes:** All athletes must have been born December 31, 2011 or earlier and hold a minimum rank of senior Sankyu (brown belt).

**All VETERAN Championship Athletes:** All athletes must be born in 1996 or earlier and hold black belt ranks and who possess a black belt certificate certifying rank. Brown belts and below, born in 1996 or earlier may fill out a waiver request. Refer to link in the Veterans section of this entry package.

**All WHITE-YELLOW AND OR WHITE-YELLOW-ORANGE Athletes:** Belt rank limits given on Junior, Senior, Veterans specific areas of this entry package. Ages and weights same as for the Championship. **Juniors** must comply with additional qualifications listed in the Junior information area. **Juniors** who violate this rule are subject to **disqualification from the entire event with no refunds.**

**All GOLDEN SCORE Athletes:** Junior athletes who **have also competed in the 2026 Junior individual Championships.**

## INTERNATIONAL TRAINING CAMP

**Dates:** Monday through Wednesday, July 27-29, 2026; At HEADQUARTERS HOTEL

**Eligibility:** ALL athletes (Junior, Senior, Veteran)

**Cost:** \$185.00 per person for all 3 days or \$75 per person for 1 day.

Cost **DOES NOT** include Hotel or Meals. Refer to page 21 for details or click [usopenjudo.com](http://usopenjudo.com).

## HOTELS INFORMATION

The Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention and Visitors Bureau are sponsors of the Championship and as such, have offered excellent rates at the hotels listed below. We encourage everyone to stay at the tournament hotels.

**Tournament Headquarters** (July 22-23: Registration, July 23: Weigh In, Meetings, Draw, July 27-29: Camp); Hilton Fort Lauderdale Marina; 1881 SE 17th St. Fort Lauderdale, FL; For reservations: [Click here](#)

Overflow Hotel #1: Marriott Harbor Beach Resort and Spa: 3030 Holiday Dr. Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316; For reservations: [Click here](#)

Overflow Hotel #2: Holiday Inn Express Ft. Lauderdale Cruise-Airport; 1500 SE 17th Street Causeway Fort Lauderdale, FL; For reservations: [Click here](#)

## TOURNAMENT VENUE

Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center  
1950 Eisenhower Blvd, Ft Lauderdale, FL 33316

July 24-26: ALL Competition; July 24: weigh-in Bantam-2, 4, 6, Juvenile, IJF Junior ONLY;  
July 25: Senior/Veterans/Golden Score Registration/Check-in, Senior/Veterans weigh-in

## POST-TOURNAMENT PARTY

The Sunday evening Dance Party (at the HEADQUARTERS HOTEL) for Juniors will begin at 7 PM.  
Check Event Website [USOPENJUDO.COM](http://USOPENJUDO.COM) for more information.

## SPECTATOR ADMISSION INFORMATION

- Current and Former Olympic Team Members and Staff receive free admission and floor passes.
- USA Judo Life Members will receive free admission (spectator seating only.)
- Early Purchase: Adults \$10/day; Under 18 \$7/day
- At Tournament site: Adults \$15/day; Under 18 \$10/day
- All children under 6 years old: FREE

Please click [usopenjudo.com](http://usopenjudo.com) for ticket prices and to order tickets in advance.

**It is highly recommended to purchase tickets online. Lines for purchasing tickets at the tournament site are very long.**

Tickets purchased in advance will be held under the purchaser's name and can be picked up at registration/check-in or at the tournament site door on the days of competition.

**EARLY/LATE REGISTRATION, ENTRY FEES, TOURNAMENT CHECK-IN INFORMATION**

**Early Registration: Online ONLY by June 15, 2026.**

**Late Registration: Online ONLY between June 16 and July 14, 2026.**

**After July 14, 2026, Athletes must register onsite (walk-up).**

**Walk-Up Registration:** All Contestants who have not registered online by July 19 may register as a Walk-Up during Tournament Check-in on **Wednesday or Thursday July 22-23, 2026** or **Saturday, July 25, 2026** for Seniors Veterans, and Golden Score. All forms must be properly completed and signed at that time. **Cash or Credit cards ONLY!** Personal checks and Business Checks will **not be accepted for walk-up registration.**

**Credit Cards can only be accepted if drawn on United States Banks.**

**Entry Fees:**

Type:	Early	Late	Walk-Up
Register Online by:	June 15	June 16-July 14	onsite
Registration Fee:	\$115	\$145	\$190
Golden Score Registration Fee:	\$95	\$110	\$125

**ENTRY FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE**

**Tournament Check-In: All Junior Athletes** must check-in with tournament officials, in person, on either July 22 or July 23 at the **HEADQUARTERS HOTEL** during one of the time periods listed in the schedule of events to confirm participation and competition categories. **Senior and Veterans** may check in on those dates as well. In addition, on July 25, **Seniors and Veterans** who have not yet checked in must check-in with tournament officials, in person, at the **TOURNAMENT SITE** during the time period listed in the schedule of events to confirm participation and competition categories. All required forms must be properly completed and signed, and the appropriate entry fees paid, regardless of when the player registers. Refer to the checklist of required items listed elsewhere in this entry package.

**PHOTO ID:** Please update your smoothcomp profile picture to a passport-style head shot.

**Early and late registration for competition, training camp, coach clinic, coach credentials, and vendors will all be online ONLY: [USOPENJUDO.COM](http://USOPENJUDO.COM)**

## RULES for Juniors, Seniors, Veterans

The Championships will be conducted in accordance with the Contest Rules, Organization Code and Sporting Code of the International Judo Federation, as revised for the 2026 US Open Judo Championship. These rules include, but are not limited to draw, weigh-in, length of contests, and competition procedures.

**Rules that are specific to the various categories are so indicated; otherwise, the rule applies to all categories. Additional rules for JUNIORS, SENIORS and VETERANS may be listed in those sections of the entry package.**

- **Determination of Weight Category:** **JUNIOR, SENIOR AND VETERAN** athletes are asked to make a **preliminary declaration** of weight on the entry form or at check-in/registration. However, the athlete's actual weight at weigh-in will determine their weight division, i.e. the athletes do not have to "make" their declared weight.

**Naked weigh-in is no longer allowed for any category. To compensate, 0.1kg will be allowed. For example, in the 66kg category, the limit will be 66.1kg. This is a clothing allowance only and the 0.1kg will only be added to the true weight.**

- **Shime-waza rule:** Shime-waza (choking) allowed in Juvenile, Cadet, IJF-Junior, Senior and Veterans categories only. Choking is **NOT ALLOWED** in Junior White-Yellow and White-Yellow-Orange Divisions, Senior Below Brown Below, Veterans Brown Belt and Below and Veterans F/M-7 through F/M-11 Championship divisions.
- **Kansetsu-waza rule:** Kansetsu-waza (arm locks) allowed in Cadet, IJF-Junior, Senior and Veterans categories only. Arm locks are **NOT ALLOWED** in Junior White-Yellow and White-Yellow-Orange Divisions, Senior Below Brown Belt, Veterans Brown Belt and Below divisions.
- **Injury Rule:** Decisions as to whether an athlete may continue if injured while on the mat, 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 the Team Doctor. If there is not a unanimous opinion among these three individuals, the athlete **may not** continue (Board-approved October 22, 1998.)
- **Match lengths:**

Bantam-1, Bantam-2, Bantam-3, Intermediate, and Juvenile:	3 minutes
Cadet and IJF Junior:	4 minutes
Seniors:	4 minutes

Veterans: Please refer to Veterans-information area.
- **Judo-gi requirements:** **IJF judogi Requirements regarding sizing will be enforced for ALL CATEGORIES at this event. Athletes, coaches and parents should study these requirements at the following link: <https://www.ijf.org/documents> (look for IJF Judogi Rules - 24.04.2023 - ENG (Education And Coaching Commission)).**

Appropriate undergarments must be worn by all athletes. Female athletes shall wear under the jacket either, a plain white or off-white tee-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 Tee-shirt should be round necked. No marking can be visible when the judogi is done up.

Athlete's needing to change clothes/judo gi should do so in a restroom, locker room or other area specifically designated for changing.

➤ **MAAPP Policy:** *The 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>.*

**RULES CONTINUE ON NEXT PAGE**

## RULES for Juniors, Seniors, Veterans **(CONTINUED)**

- **Judo gi color: In the Intermediate, Juvenile, Cadet, IJF Junior, Senior, and Veteran categories, the blue and white judogi requirement is mandatory.** In all other categories we encourage the wearing of a blue judogi by the “blue” side competitor. However, **Bantam-1 thru 6 can both wear white judogi's. IJF labeled approved gi's are not required, but gi's must meet IJF sizing requirements.** Under no circumstances shall both competitors be allowed to compete in blue gis, nor will the blue and white competitors be allowed to switch positions. The gi jacket and pants must be the same color; no mixing of colors. In all matches where both competitors are wearing white gis, both competitors will remove their grade belts and wear a blue or white belt to identify the contestant's designated color for the match.

**COMPETITORS AND THEIR COACHES IN BANTAM-1 through BANTAM-6 CATEGORIES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING THEIR OWN BLUE AND WHITE BELTS FOR THIS COMPETITION. THIS RULE WILL INSURE THAT THE BELTS FIT PROPERLY. PLEASE MARK YOUR BELTS WITH YOUR NAME OR CLUB.**

### CONFIRMATION OF CATEGORIES/DRAW PROCEDURES

All times listed below are Eastern Daylight Time (EDT).

Prior to the beginning of registration/check-in, 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 emailed to [usopenjudo@gmail.com](mailto:usopenjudo@gmail.com). **PHONE CALLS OR TEXTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

At the conclusion of weigh-in each day, revised divisions will be updated according to the schedule listed below. Athletes/coaches/representatives for the athlete are required to check the list to ensure the athlete is in the correct category/weight and report corrections during the time periods listed below.

**After those time periods, no other corrections will be accepted.**

**July 23:** Corrections and weights will be processed at the conclusion of weigh-in at 4 PM and revised divisions will be posted at <https://usajudo.smoothcomp.com> no earlier than 5:00 PM. All corrections must be emailed to [usopenjudo@gmail.com](mailto:usopenjudo@gmail.com) within 60 minutes after posting. **PHONE CALLS OR TEXTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** Afterwards the draw will be run. Draw brackets and fight sheets will be posted at <https://usajudo.smoothcomp.com>.

**July 24:** Weights will be processed at the conclusion of weigh-in at 12 Noon and revised divisions will be posted at <https://usajudo.smoothcomp.com> no earlier than 1:00 PM. All corrections must be emailed to [usopenjudo@gmail.com](mailto:usopenjudo@gmail.com) or submitted in person onsite within 60 minutes after posting. **PHONE CALLS OR TEXTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** Afterwards the draw will be run. Draw brackets and fight sheets will be posted at <https://usajudo.smoothcomp.com>.

**July 25:** Weights will be processed at the conclusion of weigh-in at 1:30 PM and revised divisions will be posted at <https://usajudo.smoothcomp.com> no earlier than 3:00 PM. All corrections must be emailed to [usopenjudo@gmail.com](mailto:usopenjudo@gmail.com) or submitted in person onsite within 60 minutes after posting. **PHONE CALLS OR TEXTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** Afterwards the draw will be run. Draw brackets and fight sheets will be posted at <https://usajudo.smoothcomp.com>.

**IMPORTANT!** All division lists will be posted **online ONLY!** Athletes or their representatives must review the posted lists to ensure the athlete is in the correct Age/Weight category. Failure to confirm or make corrections during the correction periods given above may result in the athlete NOT COMPETING IN THIS TOURNAMENT. All draws will be conducted using USA Judo approved software. **With the exception of seeding, the draw will be random with the additional provision that athletes from the same club will be separated as far apart in the pools as possible.** Refer to the next section for all seeding information.

## MATCH SCHEDULING, SEEDING OF ATHLETES, POINTS, COACH ACCESS

- A Match Scheduling system will be used. All contestants are expected to report to their assigned contest area 3 matches prior to their assigned match. Details of the match scheduling system will be announced at the coach meeting prior to the first day of competition.
- **MATCH SCHEDULING CONFLICTS:** Some athletes will be competing in more than one division on the same day. For example, Junior White-Yellow-Orange and Championship; Senior and Veteran; more than one bantam weight/same age. Tournament staff will attempt to schedule the divisions as far apart as possible to avoid conflicts, but this is not guaranteed. The standard “no show” protocol will apply if an athlete fails to appear because they are competing in another division at the same time.
- Juniors: In the **Cadet and IJF Junior** categories **ONLY**, athletes will be seeded based on the current **USA Judo Cadet and IJF Junior National Rosters** according to the current USA Judo seeding procedures..
- Seniors: In the **Senior** category, athletes will be seeded based on the current **USA Judo Senior National Rosters** according to the current USA Judo seeding procedures.
- Veterans: There will be **no seeding** in the **Veterans** categories.
- Points in the **Championship** categories: For USA Athletes, points on the USA Judo national rosters will be awarded in accordance with the current USA Judo point system. Refer to the following for changes clarification or changes to the USA Judo point system:  
[https://www.usajudo.com/athletes /Juniors /Seniors /Veterans](https://www.usajudo.com/athletes/Juniors/Seniors/Veterans)  
**Note: USA athletes who wish to receive points on USA Judo’s national point rosters, must be a member of USA Judo at the time of Registration/Check-in.**  
**There will be no points for White/Yellow and White/Yellow/Orange divisions OR Golden Score.**
- Coach Access: Authorized coaches will be given admission onto the venue floor. One coach per contestant.

## METHOD OF COMPETITION; JUNIORS, SENIORS, VETERANS

### JUNIORS, SENIORS, VETERANS:

1. Categories having five (5) 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 (Ippon=10, Wazaari=7, Decision=1). 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.

2. Categories having six (6) competitors or greater:

**Modified Double Elimination.** Players are divided into two pools, A and B by means of a draw (described above.)

**Determination of 1st and 2nd place:** The "knockout" (single elimination) system is used to produce two finalists, who will compete for 1st & 2nd place.

**Determination of 3rd - 5th place:** Championship: All contestants who were defeated before the semifinals will compete in a consolation bracket (referred to as a loser's pool). Athletes will be placed in the loser's pool in a way that attempts to keep those who met in the "winners" pool from meeting again, although depending on the size of the division, this will not always be possible. The losers of the semifinals will fight the last two remaining players in the loser's pool. The winners of those two matches (2) will be placed 3<sup>rd</sup>; the losers (2) will be placed 5<sup>th</sup>. Non-Championship and Golden Score: One 3<sup>rd</sup> place only.

### AWARDS

**Individual **Championship** Awards:** First, Second, and two (2) Third place medals will be awarded.

**Individual **Non-Championship** & Golden Score Awards:** First, Second, and one (1) Third place medal will be awarded.

**Cadet Awards (Gold Medalist; US Athletes only; minimum 6 athletes): \$300 Grant**

**IJF Junior Awards (Gold Medalist; US Athletes only; minimum 6 athletes): \$300 Grant**

**Senior Awards (Gold Medalist; Olympic Weights, US Athletes only; minimum 6 athletes): \$300 Grant**

**Senior Most Outstanding Athlete Trophy**

**Veterans Most Outstanding Athlete Trophy**

**Additional awards based on athlete performance will be presented.**

**JUNIOR Special Awards:** The following special recognition awards will be presented to athletes selected from the IJF Junior, Categories:

1. The Rene Capo Memorial award for Men IJF Sr
2. The John Miller award for Women IJF Sr Female
3. Jim Takemori award for Best All Around Jr Female Judoka
4. Irwin Cohen Award for Best Jr Technician
5. The Frank Fullerton Most Inspirational Award
6. Raul Guasch Ippon Trophy
7. Tony Camal Memorial award for Women

**USA National Team: Most Points; \$1000.00 Grant**

**International Team: Most Points; \$1000.00 Grant**

**US Open Team Champion: Most Gold Medals from US Open and Golden Score combined. \$1000.00 Grant**

**Points will be awarded as follows: Gold: 5; Silver: 3; Bronze:1**

**Tie breakers as follows:** 1<sup>st</sup> tie breaker = most medals won; 2<sup>nd</sup> tie breaker = most Gold medals won; final tie breaker = coin flip.

Specific rules will be announced at the coaching meeting as to club members, etc.

1. If athletes are from another country, their medals will not count for the club.
2. The athlete's USA Judo affiliated club membership beginning in January of 2026 will be the recognized club unless the athlete/family has moved to the state in question (proof of move and residency required.)

## COMPLETE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The following is a general schedule of events. All dates and days of the week are final. However, the times listed are approximate and the Organizing Committee reserves the right to change these, if necessary. The final schedule will be provided to delegations, officials, and athletes upon arrival.

### Wednesday, July 22, 2026 - At the HEADQUARTERS HOTEL.

6:30 - 9:00 PM: **Early Tournament Check-in** at the HEADQUARTERS HOTEL. **All athletes** (Junior, Senior & Veterans) may check-in with tournament officials, **in person**, to confirm participation.

6:30-10:00 PM: USA Judo Coach Certification Clinic - **Bring Judogi to clinic. (see below for 2<sup>nd</sup> day's schedule)**

### Thursday, July 23, 2026 - At the HEADQUARTERS HOTEL

9:30 AM-12:30 PM and 1:30 PM-4:30 PM – Continuation of Coach Certification Clinic

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM: **Tournament Check-in.** **All JUNIOR athletes** must check-in with tournament officials, **in person**, to confirm participation. **SENIOR** and **VETERAN** athletes may also check-in during this time period.

12:00 PM - 4:00 PM: Official Weigh-in for **Bantam-1, Bantam-3, Bantam-5, Intermediate, Cadet, Categories ONLY**. Contestants may check weight as many times as desired prior to the start of the official weigh-in. During official weigh-in, a contestant is given only one chance on the scale.

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM: Referee meeting

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Technical (Coaches) Meeting

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM: Scorer Meeting

### Friday, July 24, 2026 - At the Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center

9:00 AM: Eliminations (**Bantam-1, Bantam-3, Bantam-5, Intermediate, Cadet**): All matches except gold medal matches. **Exception:** Awards for round-robin divisions will be presented upon completion of the division. **White-Yellow and White-Yellow-Orange categories will be the first session.**

3:00 PM or 1 hour after the end of eliminations: Opening Ceremony.

**Gold Medal matches** follow Opening Ceremonies (Order of matches will be determined after preliminary rounds.) Awards will follow medal matches.

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Official Weigh-in for **Bantam-2, Bantam-4, Bantam-6, Juvenile, IJF Junior Categories ONLY**. Contestants may check weight as many times as desired prior to the start of the official weigh-in. During official weigh-in, a contestant is given only one chance on the scale.

Bantam, Intermediate, and Cadet athletes who have previously weighed in and are moving up in age according to the rules in the Junior Specific information area, **DO NOT** have to weigh in again on July 25. Cadets **may weigh in again** if they want to compete in a different weight division in the IJF Junior category.

**Schedule continued on next page**

## COMPLETE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (Continued)

### Saturday, July 25, 2026 - At the Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center

9:00 AM: Eliminations (**Bantam-2, Bantam-4, Bantam-6, Juvenile, IJF Junior**): All matches except gold medal matches. **Exception:** Awards for round-robin divisions will be presented upon completion of the division. **White-Yellow and White-Yellow-Orange categories will be the first session.**

**Gold Medal matches:** 1/2 hour following the end of the eliminations. Order of matches will be determined after preliminary rounds. Awards following the medal matches.

10:00 AM-12:00 PM: Check-in, Registration for **Seniors, Veterans, Golden Score**

Seniors and Veterans must make a **preliminary** declaration of weight category at this time (unless done so at one of the previous registration periods). However, the athlete's actual weight at weigh-in will determine their weight division, i.e. the athletes do not have to "make" their declared weight. Golden Score weights will be the athletes' weights from their Championship division.

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM: Unofficial Weigh-in **Seniors and Veterans**

11:30 AM – 1:30 PM: Official Weigh-in **Seniors and Veterans**

**NOTE:** Cadet and IJF Junior athletes who plan to compete in the Senior category **DO NOT** need to weigh in on July 25 unless they wish to compete in a different weight division.

### Sunday, July 26, 2026 – At the Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center

9:00 AM: Eliminations (**Senior and Veterans**): Veterans divisions will continue to completion; awards will be presented as divisions conclude. **Gold Medal matches for Seniors** will occur 1/2 hour following the end of the eliminations. **Exception:** Awards for round-robin divisions will be presented upon completion of the division. **Veteran Brown Belt and Below and Senior Below Brown Belt categories will be the first session.**

**Junior Golden Score Event (Bantam through IJF Junior):** This event will run simultaneously with the **Veterans** and **Seniors** Championship using the mats that are available. Awards will be presented upon completion of the division.

**Closing ceremonies:** Following all competition.

**Social Function: At HEADQUARTERS HOTEL.**

A dance party for juniors will begin at the Headquarters Hotel at 7 PM on Sunday evening.

**Finals will be shown live on streaming video. Details at: [usopenjudo.com](https://usopenjudo.com)**

### Monday - Wednesday July 27-29, 2026 – At HEADQUARTERS HOTEL

**International Training Camp** Final Training camp schedule will be posted on the event website and will be provided upon arrival; visit event website for updated information [usopenjudo.com](https://usopenjudo.com)

## ATHLETE ENTRY REQUIREMENT CHECKLIST

Please refer to the following checklist to assure that all requirements for participation in the Championships have been fulfilled. All requirements will be completed/uploaded online only at: [usopenjudo.com](https://usopenjudo.com)

- Official Registration and pay fees** by June 15, 2026 for early registration, or between June 16 and July 19, for late registration. Refer to the table elsewhere for appropriate entry fees. **After July 19, 2026 athletes must register onsite (walk-up).**
- Proof of current USA JUDO membership.**
- Upload passport style photo to your Smoothcomp Profile for use on Tournament Identification Card.** If no photo is uploaded, you will experience a delay at check-in and will be charged \$10.00 to have a photo taken.
- False Alarm/Damages Waiver and Warning**
- Waiver, Release of Liability and Agreement to Participate (on last page of this document)**
- Proof of Age:** Copy of birth certificate, passport, or USA JUDO membership card having the verification symbol "(V)" printed following the birth date must be uploaded. **A driver's license is not proof of age!**
- Certificate of United States Citizenship and age.** Copy of birth certificate, military identification, passport, voter registration card, or USA JUDO membership card having the verification symbol "(V)" printed following date of birth must be uploaded. U.S. Citizenship is verified by a "C" printed at the bottom of the USA Judo membership card.

### Optional:

- International Training Camp Registration and pay fees**
- Coach Registration and pay fees if necessary**
- USA Judo Coach Certification Clinic Application and pay fees.**
- Extra Event/Country/Name backpatch order form and pay fees.**

**REMINDERS:** Junior athletes **MUST** compete in the individual Junior Championship in order to be eligible to compete in the Golden Score Event.

All requirements will be completed/uploaded online only at: [usopenjudo.com](https://usopenjudo.com)

## JUNIOR-SPECIFIC INFORMATION

### CHAMPIONSHIP information regarding competition in multiple categories and method of awarding points.

- For Bantam, Intermediate, and Juvenile athletes:** Athletes must first compete in their true age/weight division. In addition, the athlete may **CHOOSE** to compete in the next higher weight division/same age and have the bonus option of moving up to the next age category in the nearest weight division based on their true weight.  
**Examples: An athlete in Bantam 2, 19kg may enter Bantam 2, 23 kg and (or) Bantam 3, 21 kg.**  
**A male athlete in Juvenile 48 kg may enter Juvenile 52kg and (or) Cadet 50kg.**  
**EXCEPTION:** If an event is used as an International TRIALS event, athletes will not be allowed to move up to the next age category if that category is a TRIALS category.  
 Example: A Juvenile cannot move up to Cadet if the event is a TRIALS event for Cadets.
- Entry forms and fees must be submitted for each division.
- Points will be earned in all divisions. Points earned in an older age category will be used for ranking purposes but cannot be used for International Team selection until the athlete becomes old enough to qualify for that age category.
- The Bantam “+” weight and lowest weight may be split into two divisions in the interest of safety. If this is done, only the heaviest weight group will earn points. Tournament Directors reserve the right to disallow moving up in age or weight if they feel it is unsafe because of large differences in weights.
- Cadet athletes** may compete in both **Cadet and IJF Junior categories**. Points earned in Cadet will be applied to Cadet and points earned in IJF Junior will be applied to IJF Junior. Entry forms and fees must be submitted for each division.

Clarification: Junior athletes who earn points earned in the Senior category will have those points applied to their Senior division.

For USA Athletes, points on the USA Judo national rosters will be awarded in accordance with the current USA Judo point system. To receive points on the USA Judo Roster you must be a member of USA Judo prior to the event. Criteria can be found at [https://www.usajudo.com/athletes/juniors/national-ranking-rosters-2023#USA\\_Judo\\_Point\\_Roster\\_Criteria](https://www.usajudo.com/athletes/juniors/national-ranking-rosters-2023#USA_Judo_Point_Roster_Criteria).

### Championship & White-Yellow/White-Yellow-Orange Age Categories/Weight Divisions.

Listed below are the age and weight categories of competition. **EACH AGE CATEGORY IS BASED SOLELY ON THE YEAR IN WHICH THE CONTESTANT WAS BORN. THE CONTESTANT’S ACTUAL AGE ON THE DAY OF COMPETITION IS IRRELEVANT.** For each category, a contestant must be born in the appropriate year as defined below.

All Weights listed below are in kilograms. For each weight division, the weight range will be over the next lower weight and up to and including the weight listed. Example: Male Intermediate, 40 kg – over 35 kg and up to and including 40 kg.

**NOTE: Juvenile and Intermediate weight divisions are changed for 2026 to conform with new Pan American weights. In addition, Intermediate Male 28 kg, 31 kg, & Female 28 kg are point divisions for USA Judo-only.**

Category Name Years of Birth	Gen- der	Junior Championship and White-Yellow/White-Yellow-Orange Weight Divisions										
IJF Junior Born 2006-2011	M	60	66	73	81	90	100	+100 Kg				
	F	48	52	57	63	70	78	+78 Kg				
Cadet Born 2009-2011	M	50	55	60	66	73	81	90	+90 Kg			
	F	40	44	48	52	57	63	70	+70 Kg			
Juvenile Born 2012-2013	M	40	45	50	55	60	66	73	81	+81 kg		
	F	36	40	44	48	52	57	63	70	+70 kg		
Intermediate Born 2014-2015	M	28	31	35	40	45	50	55	60	66	73	+73 kg
	F	28	32	36	40	44	48	52	57	63	+63 kg	
Bantam-6 Born 2016	M/F	27	31	35	39	44	+44 Kg					
Bantam-5 Born 2017	M/F	25	29	33	37	41	+41 Kg					
Bantam-4 Born 2018	M/F	22	26	30	34	38	+38 Kg					
Bantam-3 Born 2019	M/F	21	25	29	+29 Kg							
Bantam-2 Born 2020	M/F	19	23	+23 Kg								
Bantam- 1 Born 2021	M/F	18	22	+22 Kg								

## **Junior White-Yellow and White-Yellow-Orange Eligibility, Age/Weight Categories/Divisions; Belt--Rank Requirements**

The following are **guidelines** for White-Yellow, White-Yellow-Orange eligibility. However, in spirit of fairness and for safety purposes, the tournament directors reserve the right to modify eligibility based on an athlete's special circumstances.

**Example:** An athlete was awarded a medal in white-yellow and or white-yellow-orange division(s) but has never won any matches. It would be unfair, and unsafe, to force such an athlete to enter a Championship division.

### **Belt Rank Eligibility Guidelines:**

1. White-Yellow and White-Yellow-Orange Category.

Violators are subject to **disqualification from the entire event with no refunds.**

**Rank Requirements:** Bantam-1 through Bantam-6: White and Yellow ONLY;  
All other Junior categories: White, Yellow, and Orange ONLY.

**Weight Divisions:** Same as for the Championship Category.

**Ages:** Same as those listed above for the Championships.

**Rules:** Same as those for the Championships with the exception that there will be **NO chokes or armlocks allowed** in the White-Yellow and White-Yellow-Orange divisions.

**Match Scheduling Conflicts:** Some athletes will be competing in more than one division on the same day. For example, White-Yellow, White-Yellow-Orange and Championship. Tournament staff will attempt to schedule the divisions as far apart as possible to avoid conflicts, but this is not guaranteed. The standard "no show" protocol will apply if an athletes fail to appear because they are competing in another division at the same time.

## **JUNIOR GOLDEN SCORE EVENT--SPECIFIC INFORMATION**

On Sunday, July 26, in order to provide more matches for the athletes and excitement for all, there will be a new-style tournament **IN ADDITION** to the normal age-weight divisions.

The Golden Score Tournament **IS NOT** a USA Judo point event but counts for the total Gold medal count for the team award grant.

**Eligibility:** Athletes **MUST COMPETE** in the Junior Championship of the. U.S. Open Judo Championship in order to be eligible for the Golden Score Tournament.

**Registration:** Athletes may register during the Wednesday-Thursday registration periods or on Saturday during the same time period allotted for Senior and Veteran registration.

**Weigh-in:** There will be no weigh-in. Weights used will be the athlete's weight for the regular US Open Junior Championship.

**Awards:** Medals to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners

## **JUNIOR GOLDEN SCORE METHOD OF COMPETITION, RULES AND POINTS**

**Elimination Systems:** Round Robin for divisions of 5 or fewer; Modified Double Elimination for all others.

### **Rules:**

First one to score yuko wins; Three shidos loses.

**Time Limits:** 5 minutes for Bantam-1-2, Bantam-3-4, Categories; No time limits for all other Categories.

**Eligibility:** Athletes **MUST COMPETE** in the Junior Championship of the. U.S. Open Judo Championship in order to be eligible for the Golden Score Tournament.

The Golden Score Tournament **IS NOT** a USA Judo point event, but medals won **WILL** count for the \$1,000 team award grant

**(Continued on next page).**

## Continued - JUNIOR GOLDEN SCORE EVENT–SPECIFIC INFORMATION

**Golden Score Bantam age groups for 2026:** Bantam 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 have been changed to Bantam 1&2, Bantam 3&4 and Bantam 5&6.

**Golden Score weights for 2026:** The Golden Score tournament has replaced the previous Light/Medium/Heavy, with the age/weight divisions listed below. However, if necessary, and in the interest of safety, the tournament reserves the right to add or combine weight divisions based on the weight ranges of the entrants.

### Golden Score Competition Age Categories and Weight Divisions:

Listed below are the age and weight categories of the competition. **EACH AGE CATEGORY IS BASED SOLELY ON THE YEAR IN WHICH THE CONTESTANT WAS BORN. THE CONTESTANT'S ACTUAL AGE ON THE DAY OF COMPETITION IS IRRELEVANT.** For each category, a contestant must be born in the appropriate year as defined below. All Weights listed below are in kilograms. For each weight division, the weight range will be over the next lower weight and up to and including the weight listed. Example: Intermediate, 35 kg – over 30 kg and up to and including 35 kg.

**NOTE: Juvenile and Intermediate weight divisions are changed for 2026!**

Category Name Years of Birth	Gen- der	Golden Score Weight Divisions										
IJF Junior Born 2006-2011	M	60	66	73	81	90	100	+100 Kg				
	F	48	52	57	63	70	78	+78 Kg				
Cadet Born 2009-2011	M	50	55	60	66	73	81	90	+90 Kg			
	F	40	44	48	52	57	63	70	+70 Kg			
Juvenile Born 2012-2013	M	40	45	50	55	60	66	73	81	+81 kg		
	F	36	40	44	48	52	57	63	70	+70 kg		
Intermediate Born 2014-2015	M	28	31	35	40	45	50	55	60	66	73	+73 kg
	F	28	32	36	40	44	48	52	57	63	+63 kg	
Bantam-5&6; Born 2016 -2017	M/F	26	30	34	38	42	+42 kg					
Bantam-3&4; Born 2018 2019	M/F	22	26	30	34	38	+38 Kg					
Bantam-1&2; Born 2020 -2021	M/F	18	23	+23 kg								

## VETERANS–SPECIFIC INFORMATION

### VETERANS SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Registration/Check in: All Veterans	July 22	6:30 PM - 9:00 PM	HEADQUARTERS HOTEL
	July 23	10:00 AM - 3:00 PM	HEADQUARTERS HOTEL
	July 25	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	TOURNAMENT SITE
Unofficial Weigh-in –All Veterans	July 25	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	TOURNAMENT SITE
Official Weigh-in:	July 25	11:30 AM - 1:30 PM	TOURNAMENT SITE
Exhibition Match Meeting	July 25	To be announced	TOURNAMENT SITE
Competition Begins: Male/Female; All Divisions	July 26	9:00 AM	TOURNAMENT SITE

## VETERANS METHOD OF COMPETITION, AGE, WEIGHTS, RULES AND POINTS

**Brown Belt and Below Category age, weights, rank:** Athletes born in 1996 or earlier and holding belt ranks **brown belt and below** may compete in the Brown belt and below Category. Weights will be the same as for the Championship Category.

**Brown Belt and Below Rules:** Same as those for the Championships with **the exception that there will be NO chokes or armlocks allowed** in the Brown belt and below divisions.

**Championship Category Age and Rank Requirement:** Any black belt born in 1996 or earlier with proof of black belt rank may compete in this event. Brown belts and below not meeting the requirements as set forth in this entry form may fill out the waiver request:

Please click [usopenjudo.com](https://www.usopenjudo.com) to apply for a Veterans Brown Belt Waiver.

**USA Judo National Ranking Points:** For USA Athletes, points on the USA Judo national rosters will be awarded in accordance with the current USA Judo point system. To receive points on the USA Judo Roster you must be a member of USA Judo prior to the event. Criteria can be found at <https://www.usajudo.com/veteran-point-criteria>.

**Seeding:** There will be **NO SEEDING** in the Veterans category.

**Participation Limit:** There is no participation limit.

**Elimination Systems:** Round Robin for divisions of 5 or fewer; Modified Double Elimination for all others.

**Match Lengths:** Lengths: M1/F1 through M6/F6 will be three minutes (3) and unlimited golden score. M7/F7 through M11/F11 will be two and one half (2.5) minutes and one-minute golden score.

**Awards:** Awards will be given out within one hour of each category’s completion

**HOW “AGE” IS DETERMINED (New shime-waza limitations for 2026).**

Players will be assigned to an Age Division based on their year of birth. A player must be born in 1996 or earlier and will be assigned to a five-year age range as shown below:

Division	Age at end of 2026	Year of birth	Division	Age at end of 2026	Year of birth
F1/M1	30 - 34	1992-1996	F7/M7	60 – 64 *	1962-1966
F2/M2	35 - 39	1987-1991	F8/M8	65 – 69 *	1957-1961
F3/M3	40 - 44	1982-1986	F9/M9	70 – 74 *	1952-1956
F4/M4	45 - 49	1977-1981	F10/M10	75 - 79 *	1947-1951
F5/M5	50 - 54	1972-1976	F11/M11	80 and over *	1946 and Earlier
F6/M6	55 – 59	1967-1971		* No Shime Waza	

**Match Scheduling Conflicts:** Veterans may also compete in Seniors (if rank qualified) but both categories compete on the same day. Tournament staff will attempt to schedule the divisions as far apart as possible to avoid conflicts, but this is not guaranteed. The standard “no show” protocol will apply if an athletes fail to appear because they are competing in another division at the same time.

## **VETERANS WEIGHT CATEGORIES; WEIGH IN, POINTS**

### **VETERANS WEIGHT DIVISIONS TO BE CONTESTED:**

**Championship and Brown Belt & Below Categories:** A weight division is defined as over the next lower weight division and up to and including the weight division number. Example: Male 73 kg means over 66 kg up to and including 73kg.

Males:	60 kg	66 kg	73 kg	81 kg	90 kg	100 kg	+100 kg
Females:	48 kg	52 kg	57 kg	63 kg	70 kg	78 kg	+78 kg

**Declaration of Weight:** Veteran athletes must make a preliminary declaration of weight on their entry form or at Registration/Check-in. However, the athlete's measured weight at weigh-in will determine the competition division.

**Naked weigh-in is no longer allowed for any category. To compensate, 0.1kg will be allowed. For example, in the 66kg category, the limit will be 66.1kg. This is a clothing allowance only and the 0.1kg will only be added to the true weight.**

**Weigh-in:** Competitors will not be allowed to check their weight on official scale during weigh-in times; however, an unofficial scale will be available for the purpose of checking weight outside of the weigh in room during official weigh-in times. **At OFFICIAL WEIGH-IN, athletes must present their tournament-issued identification card AND a photo ID/Passport.**

**Points and Exhibition Matches:** For USA athletes in the Veterans Championship category, points on the USA Judo national rosters will be awarded in accordance with the current USA Judo point system. **It is the policy of USA Judo that competitors will get their medal and points for an uncontested division.** In addition, divisions may be combined FOR EXHIBITION PURPOSES ONLY. A meeting will be held at TOURNAMENT SITE (time and location will be announced) prior to the day of competition to discuss creating these divisions. All competitors must be present and consent to these changes.

# SENIORS-SPECIFIC INFORMATION

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Registration/Check in: All Seniors	July 22	6:30 PM - 9:00 PM	HEADQUARTERS HOTEL
	July 23	10:00 AM - 3:00 PM	HEADQUARTERS HOTEL
	July 25	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	TOURNAMENT SITE
Unofficial Weigh-in –All Seniors	July 25	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	TOURNAMENT SITE
Official Weigh-in:	July 25	11:30 AM - 1:30 PM	TOURNAMENT SITE
Competition Begins; All Divisions:	July 26	9:00 AM	TOURNAMENT SITE

## **SENIORS AGE/WEIGHT CATEGORIES; WEIGH IN, POINTS, SEEDING**

**Below Brown Belt Category:** Any athlete born December 31, 2011 or earlier and holding belt rank **below brown belt** may enter the **Below brown belt Category**. Weight divisions will be the same as the Championship.

**Rules:** Same as those for the Championships with the exception that there will be **NO chokes or armlocks allowed** in the Below brown belt divisions.

**Championship Category:** Any athlete born December 31, 2011 or earlier with a minimum rank of senior sankyu (brown belt) may enter the **Championship Category**

**Championship and Weight Divisions:** A weight division is defined as over the next lower weight division and up to and including the weight division number. Example: Male 73 kg means over 66 kg up to and including 73kg.

Males:	60 kg	66 kg	73 kg	81 kg	90 kg	100 kg	+100 kg	Open
Females:	48 kg	52 kg	57 kg	63 kg	70 kg	78 kg	+78 kg	Open

**Declaration of Weight** Senior athletes must make a preliminary declaration of weight on their entry form or at Registration/Check-in. However, the athlete’s measured weight at weigh-in will determine the competition division.

**Naked weigh-in is no longer allowed for any category. To compensate, 0.1kg will be allowed. For example, in the 66kg category, the limit will be 66.1kg. This is a clothing allowance only and the 0.1kg will only be added to the true weight.**

**Weigh-in:** Competitors will not be allowed to check their weight on official scale during weigh-in times; however, an unofficial scale will be available for the purpose of checking weight outside of the weigh in room during official weigh-in times. **At OFFICIAL WEIGH-IN, athletes must present their tournament-issued identification card AND a photo ID/Passport.**

**Elimination Systems:** Round Robin for divisions of 5 or fewer; Modified Double Elimination for all others.

**Match Lengths:** Four minutes for men and women.

**USA Judo National Ranking Points:** For USA Athletes in the **Senior Championship** category, points on the USA Judo national rosters will be awarded in accordance with the current USA Judo point system. To receive points on the USA Judo Roster you must be a member of USA Judo prior to the event. Criteria can be found at [https://www.usajudo.com/athletes/seniors/2023-national-ranking-rosters#USA\\_Judo\\_Point\\_Roster\\_Criteria](https://www.usajudo.com/athletes/seniors/2023-national-ranking-rosters#USA_Judo_Point_Roster_Criteria)

**Senior Seeding:** In the **Senior Championship** category, USA athletes will be seeded based on the current **USA Judo Senior National Rosters** according to the current USA Judo seeding procedures.

**Match Scheduling Conflicts:** Seniors may compete in Veterans (if age/rank qualified) but both categories compete on the same day. Tournament staff will attempt to schedule the divisions as far apart as possible to avoid conflicts, but this is not guaranteed. The standard “no show” protocol will apply if an athletes fail to appear because they are competing in another division at the same time.

## Coach Credentials Application Information

### COACH'S CREDENTIALS REQUIREMENTS

Coach Credentials will be provided at no cost to USA Judo certified coaches **who are SafeSport Certified\*** and **are coaching an athlete at this event.**

Coaches must register in advance on Smoothcomp (<https://usajudo.smoothcomp.com>).

Coaches **MUST check-in** on Thursday, **July 23, 2026 at the coaches meeting with Mr. Pat Burris, or his designated representative.** You must present your current USAJUDO Coach's Badge (or be in the approved USAJUDO Coaches database) and show photo ID to receive a coach's wristband which must be put on immediately. This wristband will serve as entrance to the tournament site as well as access to the competition floor.

**Coaches admitted to the floor of the event are expected to dress appropriately for a National Championship: (i.e. dress slacks and golf shirts or warm up suits (track suits) preferred). No tank tops, cut-offs, sandals, etc.**

For each Club, coach credentials will be distributed based on the following allocation:

If # of players are less than # of contest areas, then max # of coaches = max # of players.

Otherwise Max # of coaches = # of contest areas.

***\*MAAPP Policy: The 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 Coach Certification Clinic Information

CONDUCTED BY USA JUDO NATIONAL COACH EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, July 23: 9:00 AM-1 PM

Location: HILTON MARINA - HEADQUARTERS HOTEL

Applicants for all Levels

CLINIC FEE if ordered by June 28, 2026: \$65.00

CLINIC FEE if ordered between June 29 and July 15, 2026: \$75.00

Walk-up fee: \$95.00 if space is available.

Bring Judogi to the Clinic

**Click the link to register: [Coaches Clinic](#)**

## Junior International Training Camp Information

**FOR ALL ATHLETES (Junior, Senior Veteran)**

Monday - Wednesday, July 27-29, 2026

CAMP COACHES: To Be Announced

Camp to be held at HEADQUARTERS HOTEL

CAMP FEE IS \$185.00 FOR ALL 3 DAYS OR \$75 PER DAY PER PERSON FOR A SINGLE DAY.

FEE **DOES NOT** INCLUDE HOTEL OR MEALS

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS JULY 15, 2026

After July 15, participation in the camp is not guaranteed but may be allowed based on available space.

**Click to register: [International Training Camp](#)**

### Backpatch Mailing, Extra Patch information

All athletes will receive one (1) Event/Country/Name Backpatch **Free of Charge**, to be sewn onto either the blue or white judogi. There is a sewing fee of \$15.00 at registration.

*Please note: It is strongly recommended that we mail you the name patch and have it sewn on in your area. In 2024 there were long lines and the wait time was several hours.*

Backpatches will only be mailed out if a \$3 shipping fee is added for **EACH PATCH** to be shipped. Extra patches can be obtained for the following fees: \$20 if ordered by June 18, 2026

**No shipping after June 18; after June 18, patches must be picked up at Registration.  
There will be NO INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING unless pre-arranged with tournament director.**

**Please click the following link if you wish to order additional backpatches:**

**[Back Patch](#)**

## Merchandise Sales Booth Information

1. All merchandise or items for sale must be “Judo” oriented. All items must not have political statements, racial or ethnic slurs, lewd or indecent pictures or representations and must be in keeping with the aims of Judo, USA Judo interests, and/or the goals of the Olympic Sport movement.
2. NO ITEMS SOLD MAY USE THE 2026 US OPEN JUDO CHAMPIONSHIPS TEXT AND/OR LOGO.
3. Fees: 3 competition days at convention center: \$1000.00
4. Electric power at convention center (if needed): Contact Elden Electric at the Convention Center directly to get a quote and arrange for needed service.
5. Vendor at registration, Wednesday-Thursday, July 23-24, 2026: \$500.00
6. Vendors must register by July 15, 2026

Please click [usopenjudo.com](https://usopenjudo.com) to reserve your space for merchandise sales.

## Sponsorship Information

**Platinum \$8,000** (Company logo web site, venue, board advertising around each mat, announce at venue, web site, back patch, award banner, head banner and social media exposure)

**Gold \$5,000** (Company logo website, award banner, 5 advertisement boards around mats, announcement during event, Social media exposure)

**Award Podium Banner \$1,000**

**Head Table Banner \$1,000**

**Advertisement Boards around mat area each board \$300.00.**

**Website post \$1,500.00 for 2026**

**Backpatch company logo 2,000.00**

## **EVENT WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY/ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT**

For and in consideration of USA Judo/United States Judo, Inc. (“USA Judo”) allowing me, the registrant being permitted to participate in the following USA Judo sanctioned event: 2026 US Open Judo Championships and Training Camp; July 22-29, 2026 (USA Junior Open Judo Championship, LLC), including travel to and from the Event, and related events and activities (collectively, the “Event”) of the USA Judo/United States Judo, Inc., or American Traditional Jujitsu Association; I for myself, and on behalf of my spouse, children, guardians, heirs and next of kin, and any legal and personal representatives, executors, administrators, successors and assigns, hereby agree to and make the following contractual representations pursuant to this Waiver and Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Indemnity Agreement (the “Agreement”):

1. Hereby represent that (i) I am at least eighteen (18) years of age (or this Agreement is also agreed to by my parent, natural guardian, or legal guardian (the “Guardian”)); (ii) I am in good health and in proper physical condition to participate in the Event; and (iii) I am not under the influence of alcohol or any illicit or prescription drugs which would in any way impair my ability to safely participate in the Event. I agree that it is my sole responsibility to determine whether I am sufficiently fit and healthy enough to participate in the Event, that I am responsible for my own safety and well-being at all times and under all circumstances while at the Event site.
2. Understand and acknowledge that participation in a judo event is inherently dangerous and represents an extreme test of a person’s physical and mental limits. I understand and acknowledge the risks and dangers associated with participation in the Event and sports of judo and related activities, including without limitation, the potential for serious bodily injury, sickness and disease (including communicable disease), permanent disability, paralysis and loss of life; loss of or damage to equipment/property; exposure to extreme conditions and circumstances; contact with other participants, spectators, animals or other natural or manmade objects; dangers arising from adverse weather conditions; imperfect mat or other Event conditions; surface hazards; equipment failure; inadequate safety measures; participants of varying skill levels; situations beyond the immediate control of the Event Organizers (as defined in Section 5 below); and other undefined, not readily foreseeable and presently unknown risks and dangers (“Risks”). I understand that these Risks may be caused in whole or in part by my own actions or inactions or the actions or inactions of others participating in or organizing the Event, and I hereby expressly assume all such Risks and responsibility for any damages, liabilities, losses or expenses which I incur as a result of my participation in any Event, except to the extent caused by the gross negligence and/or willful misconduct of any of the Released Parties (as defined in Section 5 below).
3. Agree to be familiar with and to abide by the Rules and Regulations established for the Event, including but not limited to the International Judo Federation, the Panamerican Judo Confederation and rules adopted by USA Judo (collectively, the “Rules”) and any safety regulations established for the benefit of all participants. I accept sole responsibility for my own conduct and actions while participating in the Event, and the condition and adequacy of my equipment.
4. **Further understand and acknowledge that the Rules may allow me to enter an age category that is older than I am and/or a weight category that is heavier than I am and allow for certain judo moves (e.g., choke, joint lock, etc.) that aren’t ordinarily allowed in my age category. I fully assume all risk associated with the registration category I selected.**

**5. HEREBY RELEASE, WAIVE AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE, AND FURTHER AGREE TO INDEMNIFY, DEFEND AND HOLD HARMLESS THE FOLLOWING PARTIES, AS RELEVANT AND APPLICABLE IN EACH INSTANCE: USA JUDO, ITS MEMBERS, CLUBS, ASSOCIATIONS: UNITED STATES OLYMPIC & PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE (USOPC); THE EVENT DIRECTORS, THE HOST ORGANIZATION AND THE FACILITY, VENUE AND PROPERTY OWNERS OR OPERATORS UPON WHICH THE EVENT TAKES PLACE; AND ANY OTHER ORGANIZERS, PROMOTERS, SPONSORS, ADVERTISERS, COACHES AND OFFICIALS FOR THIS EVENT; LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND OTHER PUBLIC ENTITIES PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR THE EVENT; AND EACH OF THEIR RESPECTIVE PARENT, SUBSIDIARY AND AFFILIATED COMPANIES, OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, PARTNERS, SHAREHOLDERS, MEMBERS, AGENTS, EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS (INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY, THE “RELEASED PARTIES” OR “EVENT ORGANIZERS”), WITH RESPECT TO ANY LIABILITY, CLAIM(S), DEMAND(S), CAUSE(S) OF ACTION, DAMAGE(S), LOSS OR EXPENSE (INCLUDING COURT COSTS AND ATTORNEYS’ FEES) OF ANY KIND OR NATURE (“LIABILITY”) WHICH MAY ARISE OUT OF, RESULT FROM, OR RELATE IN ANY WAY TO MY PARTICIPATION IN THE EVENT, EXCEPT TO THE EXTENT CAUSED BY THE GROSS NEGLIGENCE AND/OR WILLFUL MISCONDUCT OF ANY OF THE RELEASED PARTIES. I FURTHER AGREE THAT IF, DESPITE THIS AGREEMENT, I, OR ANYONE ON MY BEHALF, MAKES A CLAIM FOR LIABILITY AGAINST ANY OF THE RELEASED PARTIES, I WILL INDEMNIFY, DEFEND AND HOLD HARMLESS EACH OF THE RELEASED PARTIES FROM ANY SUCH LIABILITIES WHICH MAY BE INCURRED AS THE RESULT OF SUCH CLAIM, EXCEPT TO THE EXTENT CAUSED BY THE GROSS NEGLIGENCE AND/OR WILLFUL MISCONDUCT OF ANY OF THE RELEASED PARTIES, AS RELEVANT AND APPLICABLE IN EACH INSTANCE.**

6. As a condition of my participation in the Event, I hereby grant USA Judo, the Event director and host organization a limited license to use my name, likeness, image, photograph, voice, video, athletic performance, biographical and other information (collectively, “Likeness”), in any media platform or format whatsoever, and to distribute, broadcast and exhibit these without charge, restriction or liability, but only for the purposes of advertising or promoting the Event, USA Judo, or the sport of judo. The foregoing grant, however, does not constitute consent for USA Judo or any third party to use my Likeness in an endorsement of any product or service without my specific written consent.

7. Hereby warrant that I (or the Guardian, if I am under the age of 18) am of legal age and competent to enter into this Agreement, that I have read this Agreement carefully, understand its terms and conditions, acknowledge that I will be giving up substantial legal rights by accepting it (including the rights of my spouse, children, guardians, heirs and next of kin, and any legal and personal representatives, executors, administrators, successors and assigns), acknowledge that I have accepted this Agreement without any inducement, assurance or guarantee, and intend for my acceptance to serve as confirmation of my complete and unconditional acceptance of the terms, conditions and provisions of this Agreement. This Agreement represents the complete understanding between the parties regarding these issues and no oral representations, statements or inducements have been made apart from this Agreement. If any provision of this Agreement is held to be unlawful, void, or for any reason unenforceable, then that provision shall be deemed severable from this Agreement and shall not affect the validity and enforceability of any remaining provisions.

If the participant is under the age of 18, the Guardian hereby agrees to release and discharge the Released Parties as follows: a) The Guardian acknowledges and understands that the Event is inherently dangerous and represents an extreme test of a person’s physical and mental limits. Further, the Guardian acknowledges and understands the Risks, as defined above. b) The Guardian acknowledges the rights waived by both the Guardian and the participant by accepting this Agreement. c) The Guardian acknowledges that the Guardian will indemnify the Released Parties from any and all Liability which may

arise out of, result from, or relate in any way to the participant's participation in the Event, except to the extent caused by the gross negligence and/or willful misconduct of any of the Released Parties.

Participant Signature:	
Date:	
Guardian Signature:	
Date:	