



UNITED STATES JU-JITSU FEDERATION

National Governing Body for Ju-Jitsu in the United States of America

*USA Member: North American Ju-Jitsu Union (NAJJU), Pan American Ju-Jitsu Union (PAJJU)
Ju-Jitsu International Federation (JJIF), General Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF)
the International World Games Association (IWGA) and the International Sports Grappling Association (ISGA)*

February 14, 2010

Fellow American Ju-Jitsuka and Judoka,

Approximately five years ago, the **United States Ju-Jitsu Federation (USJJF)**, www.usjjf.org, launched its own National Program of **USA Traditional Kodokan Judo (USA-TKJ)**, www.usatkj.org. This *US Ju-Jitsu National Program* is now also co-sponsored by the **United States Martial Arts Federation (USMAF)**, www.usmaf.org.

From the start of this National Program, we have emphasized that **Traditional Kodokan Judo (TKJ)** is about **ALL of JUDO**, but without the “*over-whelming emphasis*” on just the **Sport of Judo**... This means *randori* and *shiai* are of course included (along with all of the *waza* and *kata* of *judo*) in our **TKJ** training curriculum. However in **USA-TKJ** there is **NO** “competition point system” and there are **Not two different standards** for “time-in-grade” – a (*shorter*) time-in-grade for “*Competitors, Referees and Promoters*”, and another (*longer*) time-in-grade promotion requirement for “*Non-Competitors*” as in many USA judo organizations... *Frankly, in US Ju-Jitsu, we believe that the policy of having these “two” different time-in-grade standards is discriminating, unfair and should Not be acceptable to anyone...*

Over the past few years, our *National Program of Traditional Kodokan Judo* has enjoyed steady growth across the USA as well as across the globe with the **International Traditional Kodokan Judo**, www.itkj.org worldwide program of the **Martial Arts International Federation (MAIF)**. Many of our members have asked when we are going to provide *Competitive Judo Events* that is more “*in-line*” with the **Kodokan Judo Institute**. *Meanwhile, we have also heard our members’ desire for judo competition that is more “competitor friendly” and emphasizes comprehensive judo skills.*

To date, we have not conducted any judo competitive events in the **USA-TKJ National Program**. This was mostly due to *our spirit of cooperation and efforts to support for USA Judo*. In fact, over the past couple of years, as *President of US Ju-Jitsu*, I have recommended to the *President of USA Judo (& other USA Judo Board Members)* that *we find opportunities to “work in cooperation and mutual support”* as the NGBs for Ju-Jitsu and Judo. I have received some favorable responses to the concept of cooperation/support, yet unfortunately nothing has developed from those conversations. *Instead of pursuing a mutually beneficial relationship with US Ju-Jitsu, we find that USA Judo has taken a different path... USA Judo has recently announced that it now offers membership to ju-jitsuka and will be conducting its own jujitsu competition program...*

We conclude, so much for Cooperation and Mutual Support among National Governing Bodies...

We also note that *USA Judo* has *added* an “*extra*” membership fee for any of its judoka that also want to *participate* in their *jujitsu* program. On *USA Judo*’s new *application form*, we find the cost of being a “*dual*” judo & *jujitsu* annual member is **\$70.00**. That’s more than “*double*” the cost of a **US JU-JITSU** annual membership and we do **Not** require an **extra** membership fee to participate in the **USA-TKJ Program** or any of our *National Programs*...

Meanwhile the concept of providing a positive “*venue*” of *Judo Competition* that encourages more traditional skill development and increased *participation/opportunities* for our members is of great interest across the *USA Traditional Judo Community*. Therefore, I am pleased to announce that our **USA-TKJ National Committee** is working to expand the *program* by adding **Judo Competition** at the state, regional and national levels in **USA Traditional Kodokan Judo**.

If you would like to provide your input to this *important program expansion*, please contact me at bruce.bethers@usjif.org at your earliest convenience. In addition to our extensive “*line-up*” of *Jujitsu Competitions* at the state, regional, national and international levels, we also anticipate conducting *Judo Competition* beginning in 2010. I look forward to hearing from you and will keep you informed as to the Committee’s progress on this most worthwhile program.

On a *final note*, I would like to remind you of **US JU-JITSU’s** affiliation (*partnership*) with the **International Sports Grappling Association (ISGA)** and the addition of our **Ju-Jitsu Grappling (JJG)** Divisions of Competition. The Official *USA Ju-Jitsu Grappling Rules™* are posted on the **USJJF & ISGA** websites.

Best Personal Regards,



Bruce R. Bethers
President, US Ju-Jitsu (USJJF)
www.usjif.org / www.usatkj.org