

Section I - OJA Rewards System and Procedures

Awards are a sense of accomplishment and important in recognizing superior achievement or service. Anyone earning or receiving an award should take it seriously and will hold this achievement with a higher sense of pride when it has merit. Due to the tracking requirement and level of complication in the current OJA reward guidelines it is proposed that the following changes be voted upon by the state organization members.

It is proposed that newcomer awards and most improved be eliminated. We can encourage our athletes to strive for the award of outstanding athlete or award them within your club. This gives players another goal to work towards in their pursuit of excellence within the sport.

1. All voting shall be done online via the OJA website, by email or by written letter. Vote tracking will be done to ensure each member is only allowed one vote per category.
2. Outstanding Athlete Awards (male and female adult, teen, and junior; for a total of 6 categories) - Players can be nominated by their coaches who may submit a record of competition and achievements. Final candidates can be reviewed and voted upon by selection committee.
3. Coaching Awards - nomination system for coach of the year only. Final vote cast by any current OJA members.
4. Outstanding Official Award - same procedures as currently written apply.
5. Sportsmanship Award - nomination system, all OJA members may vote on final ballot listing. One of the highest achievements in the OJA awards, this particular award embodies the true spirit and should be elevated in terms of recognition. It merits discussion on how this can be done properly. (i.e. - gift cards, certificates, etc...)
6. Andrea Bregman Award - same procedures as currently written apply
7. College Scholarship Award - Junior or Senior in H.S. must submit written essay (minimum of 1 page) stating why they feel they deserve scholarship. This should include their time, experience and commitment to judo as well as other pertinent information they believe demonstrates why they deserve this award.

Section II - Promotion System and Procedures

Background

Currently, promotion in the Oklahoma Judo Association hereafter referred to as the "OJA" is based on a points system. Points towards promotion are earned through competition, clinic or service points. These proposals are submitted for consideration to the OJA promotion board. Each proposal will be treated as separate during review and voting. The proposals are as follows:

1. The current paperwork requirement for senior ranks states that "names and ranks of opponents" shall be included with promotion documentation. It is proposed that the requirement for names and ranks of each opponent not be required, but rather a total # of accumulated points verified and signed by a USA Judo coach holding current certification of Regional coach or higher be sufficient. It is furthermore proposed that the requirement to send in these points for ranks below Sankyū be eliminated as long as the required # of points can be verified by the candidates instructor/coach holding current USA Judo coaching certification of regional or higher.

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6/21/2011

2. The current system permits promotion only through the point system. The point system is restricted to shiai, clinic, or service. The current system does not take into account those individuals who for reasons of occupation or other personal circumstance are not able to regular attend tournaments where the majority of points can be earned through the fore mentioned duties or activities. It is proposed that at the discretion of a USA Judo certified coach, in good standing with USA Judo, that an additional opportunity for advancement in rank be established. The following criteria must be met:
 - a. Candidate must be of good character and demonstrate the tenants of judo as determined by certified coach. Decision to promote under this system is not to be taken lightly and is considered a privilege, not a right.
 - b. Candidate must attend class regularly - at a minimum more than 75% of a regular class a month. This does not mean the candidate must attend 75% of all classes offered at the school, but rather 75% or more of a particular class which regular meets for the instruction and training of the art of judo.
 - c. Candidate's reason for the inability to serve or compete must be reasonable as determined by the certified coach. This includes the possibility that shiai could create occupational hazard (i.e. - law enforcement), occupation does not allow the individual to attend tournaments due to regular schedule conflict, or the individuals family responsibilities do not permit attendance to these events (i.e. - responsible parenting and family duties should be encouraged and should outweigh the art as a priority in our lives)
 - d. A combination of both systems (current system and preceding 3 bullets) should be allowed if the coach has a particular player/student whom has excessive time in grade, partial points, yet for a particular qualified reason is unable to achieve the remaining points towards the next rank. This should be at the discretion of the coach. We (the governing body) entrust our coaches to teach the art and furthermore should trust this judgment and common sense.
3. Current OJA policies indicate that points can only be earned through a "sanctioned event". Some sections do not specify which body must sanction the event. While it is ambiguous in some sections, in others it states the clinic or camp must be approved by the OJA. It does not make logistical sense that the OJA be filtering system for each clinic, camp or event, but rather that this be at the discretion of the individuals USA Judo certified coach. With the growing popularity of jujitsu and the common place of wrestling it is reasonable to expect a lot of opportunities for athletes to increase their knowledge and expertise in these related disciplines. These opportunities will only serve to better judo for the individual and the sport as a whole. This is also demonstrated by USA Judo in its recent partnerships at the Olympic trials with wrestling and in its offering of jujitsu insurance option through membership. It is proposed that the requirement for a clinic, camp or competition event be changed contextual to require approval from the individuals USA Judo certified coach and not the OJA. Value of points should be awarded based on the same criteria as judo events based on geographical representation as well as the level of the respective event.