



A Message to Every Judoka in Illinois

Let's be honest about Illinois Judo, Inc.. It's been at a standstill for years. And even if you've never voted, or have steered clear of judo politics, or didn't even know it existed, this directly affects what you experience in your club and the opportunities available to you.

In the last ten years, we have seen an absence of support and leadership which has left clubs to figure things out on their own. When leadership disappears, so do the development clinics, promotion guidance, and tournaments that would benefit our coaches and athletes. We don't even know who is making the decisions on the board. This absence of leadership has held the entire state back.

Judo Illinois was created to change that.

Right now, Judo Illinois is a fully established 501(c)(3) nonprofit in good standing which is ready to operate. While others are still working to re-establish basic eligibility, we are already in a position to lead.

This decision is not about politics; it is about what you experience as a judoka in Illinois. We respect the contributions that others have made to judo in this state and nationally. But running a successful club isn't the same as managing a statewide organization. Illinois needs a group that prioritizes your development. Your vote is about what opportunities will be offered to you, your club, and your athletes in the future.

Judo Illinois is committed to consistent communication, real opportunities for development, and a clear path forward for the entire community. If we don't deliver, we expect the community to hold us accountable.

We don't need to restart Illinois Judo, Inc.. Our community needs leadership that is willing to step up, stay in compliance with USA Judo requirements, and get working.

In judo, we are taught to use our momentum to drive forward, not to be pushed back. It is time to stop looking back and start committing to progress.

Let's move forward. Choose Judo Illinois.

— **Judo Illinois** Board of Directors

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