

Ohio Judo, Inc.
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2017

A. Roll call

President (Russ Scherer) - Present
Vice-President (Russ Burke) - Absent
Secretary (Laura Suzuki) - Present
Treasurer (Michael Mooney) – Present via telephone
Operations Director (Eric Strohecker) - Present
Development Director (Ray Smith) - Present
Standards & Certification Director (Gary Monto) - Absent
Law & Legislation Director (Frances Glaze) - Absent
Athlete Rep #1 (Aaron Handy) - Absent
Athlete Rep #2 (Mick Van Kaminsky) - Absent
Guests - Frank Hertzog

B. Reading, correction and adoption of minutes of the preceding meeting

Motion to accept the minutes (Suzuki), second (Strohecker), passed unanimously.

C. Reports of Officers

President.

Until the next OJI Board of Directors meeting, we will continue the practice of having the President be the representative to USA Judo.

The web site has been updated listing the new Executive Committee and other information. We still need photos of some Executive Committee members. Russ will contact USA Judo to update their website. Russ has starting up Ohio President Notes again, which will be e-mailed to each individual member of OJI as well as other interested persons. They will also be posted on the OJI web site.

501C3 Charitable status – Initial actions have been made in the past by other but little progress was made. Michigan did it by forming a new organization. Pros and cons were discussed for starting another organization versus seeking charitable status for OJI. Mike Mooney has 501c3 charitable status for his organization. It cost a significant amount of money to gain that status. He is happy to be intermediary (pass through). Russ Scherer estimated it might take a couple thousand dollars to get OJI set up with “charitable status”. Questions: How many would donate? Corporate donations? Mike Mooney said they took in over \$10,000 the year of hosting the Senior Nationals and had to file long forms. The discussion included the benefits of having charitable status on fundraising, including at local establishments.

Mike Mooney noted that donations made to Chu To Bu Judo Club, Inc. a 501c3 corporation (Tax ID # 34-1904499) can be used at Chu To Bu Judo Clubs discretion to help fund Judo activities of Ohio Judo, Inc. We can also purchase supplies for Ohio Judo at a tax free amount.

Motion (by Russ Scherer): That we utilize Mike’s non-profit-status organization to promote Judo throughout Ohio by pursuing donations for his organization to be used for the development of athletes, officials and activities of Ohio Judo, Inc. Details to be worked out with Mike Mooney. All agreed.

Vice-President. (Not present)

Secretary. Haven't gotten E-mail from Russ Burke. *[Note: This has now been accomplished]*. Laura would like suggestions on how to do things better. Should we set up e-mail forwarding?

Treasurer. Michael Mooney reported that the bank balance is currently \$4788.03. An outstanding expense of \$256 for additional medals needed for the OJI Championships still needs to be paid. Our account is at the First Merit Bank, which has changed its name to Huntington (they bought out First Merit). Account says Ohio State Judo, but Ohio Judo for everything else. (First Merit messed up the change to Ohio Judo.) Discussion: Should try to always use Ohio Judo, not Ohio State Judo, due to confusion (legal) with Ohio State University Judo Club.

D. Reports of Committees

Operations.

Website – Russ Scherer was questioned to see if he wants to continue to post events, procedures, etc. on the OJI website. The answer was yes. An inventory of OJI assets needs to be taken. This will be done by Eric Strohecker and Russ Scherer and will be monitored on an ongoing basis. Consolidating State Championship material and medals by transfer from Mark Hunter to Russ Scherer will be accomplished at the conclusion of the State Championships. Russ will appoint an audit committee later in this meeting.

Development.

Ray Smith announced the second Monthly Workout will be held on Feb 18th (Saturday) in Hamilton at the Budokai Judo and Ju Jitsu Club. Two sessions will be conducted in morning (kids and adults) and two in the afternoon (kids and adults randori). He is anticipating that the March (or maybe April) workout will be up north. Russ Scherer requested time during workout to discuss the 2017 rule changes. We plan to have that presentation in the morning. Ray Smith will send out a notice on parking – parking lot is small but there is parking in general area. Further information on the workout will be posted on the web site as it becomes available. Ray Smith requested the web site have events in a list that is easy to print. The listing is there already on the “Event Listing” page.

Standards and Certification.

Russ Scherer hasn't had detailed discussions with Gary Monto yet. Russ says there is an on-line Referee training program on the OJI website. It is a living document and will continue to be updated. It includes the IJF Rules, typical U.S. and local modifications, photos, videos, reference material, etc. A major update will be made as soon as USA Judo releases the official adoption of the rule changes to be used in the U.S. – USA Judo will decide soon which new rules to adopt. (Much discussion on which rule system will be used at the State Championships.) The new rules are more lenient in most areas. Software needs updating to support new scoring. Russ will talk to tournament directors.

Russ wants to get a coach certification clinic scheduled also.

Law & Legislation. No discussion

E. Reports of Athlete Reps

None present but Aaron Handy has been actively involved in several of the development activities.

F. Reports of Delegate (s) to United States Judo Inc. and others

Russ reported on his recent discussions with the national office of USA Judo relative to the rebate program. The current policy is to rebate \$5 per person registered with USA Judo at the normal registration fee (special rates do not count) to all member clubs of USA Judo. They are behind in processing those payments. Discussion indicated some clubs have never received anything. Relating to State rebates, the current policy is that if there are 500 qualifying USA Judo members or fewer in the state, the state gets nothing. If there are over 500 in the state, the state gets \$5 per person. (Ohio has far fewer than 500 so does not get any rebates.) The Ohio Judo Bylaws say the individual membership fee is \$5 per person but this is no longer a source of income for Ohio Judo, Inc. (History: Originally, we processed all USA Judo registrations through our OJI Registration Chairman and deducted the \$5 prior to sending in the registration to the national office. Then the National Office started collecting directly and rebating the \$5 to the states. Eventually they stopped rebating to states (unless the state meets the 500 threshold as noted above). After discussion, it was decided to propose a bylaw amendment to eliminate the reference to the \$5 annual dues for regular individual members of OJI.

G. Unfinished Business

2017 OJI Championships. The Championships will be held in Lima on March 18, 2017. Planning is well underway. It was noted that the date conflicts with the National Scholastics, however the impact on participation by competitors is anticipated to be relatively minor but will most likely impact some of our top junior competitors and availability of several Midwest referees upon whom we normally rely. There was significant discussion about the need for more referees in Ohio.

Potential bylaw changes. These suggestions will be formalized and presented at the Annual Board of Directors Meeting at the State Championships in Lima on March 18th.

Administrative – We need to change “OSJI” to “OJI” where it was missed in the last update.

Article 3, section 6 - Election of officers. “... the Board of Directors shall elect from amongst its members at the fall meeting, every 2 years, the following officers ...”. It is unclear whether “its” refers to the members of the Board of Directors or if “its” refers to members of OJI. If the former, then a person must be a representative of their club before they can be elected to the Executive Committee. If the latter, we can draw on all available individual members of OJI, whether or not they are a designated representative of a registered club. Motion: Change “amongst its members to “amongst the membership of OJI”.

Article 4, section 1 - Meetings. “The board of directors shall hold the following regular meetings each year, held on the last Sunday of the following months: March (annual), June, September (fall), and December”. The issue is that often it is not reasonable to hold the meetings on those dates due to a variety of reasons (they are sometimes holidays and often have been the dates of major judo events in the U.S. outside Ohio). We propose a change which inserts “during the month of” in front of the four listed months.

Article 13 Section 2 A - add word “associate” in front of individual membership. Eliminate 4 classes of individual membership.

Article 13, Section 2 D - Sanction fees. Propose to eliminate sanction fees totally since the national body issues all sanctions.

The secretary will write up motions and send out to all clubs.

Joint workouts.

Propose that all "OJI Monthly Workouts" be sanctioned by USA Judo, USJA, or USJF as "open events". Participants will have to be members of one of these three organizations (or foreign equivalent). This will allow the liability and medical insurance coverage to be in effect for all participants and OJI.

There was much discussion on what is covered/not covered by insurance from USA Judo. At least one club tried but was unable to get a copy of coverage. Russ Scherer is to find out more about the insurance coverage.

Super Saturday.

In the past this program featured 3 mat areas with Kata instruction on one during most of the day, promotion techniques instruction on another, and a competitors clinic on the third mat area. It also included table worker training, rules discussion, and referee training. Randori was held on two of the mat areas later in the day, with a mock tournament on the third area, utilizing referees, timers and scorers from the morning training sessions. The tentative plan is for a Super Saturday maybe April 22 or in May. (The original proposed date of April 8th conflicted with the Indiana State Championships.)

Summer camp. We are checking with other clubs to assess the interest amongst potential campers in having a Judo Summer Camp in Ohio. Paul's camp will overlap if we pursue the initial proposed dates for our camp, but discussion with Paul indicates this conflict is not a significant issue. There was much discussion on the practicality of getting a good summer camp set up for this year.)

Motion: Table Summer Camp issue to 2018 but start working towards it now. Set date, location and details for a flyer by end of this August. (Motion passed)

Club visitations. Russ Scherer will be a clearing house of contact info for club visitations.

As part of our development efforts, we (through our Director of Development Ray Smith) will encourage traveling teams (foreign, etc.) to visit Ohio. We will try to get "big-names" in for clinics as well as "up and comers". Aaron Handy has connections that will be explored. We will look into a "weekend rendezvous" to potentially be held in the Fall.

Financial Support for top level OJI competitors. We will continue the function of supporting top athletes.

OJI Academic Scholar Judoka. We will continue to endorse and promote the OJI Academic Scholar Program.

Financial audit. Although it is called for in the OJI Bylaws, an audit has not been done in several years. It will be done internally this Quarter, under the Operations Director. As President, Russ Scherer appointed an Audit Subcommittee to be composed of Eric Strohecker, Ray Smith and Russ Scherer, with Eric as Chairman. They will get together, discuss details and provide their report at the next meeting.

Budget. Holding a possible fall tournament (the “Ohio Open”) was discussed. We need to rejuvenate tournament supplies. Missing mats need to be located. We should reinvestigate potential insurance coverage on contents of trailer. We need backup manual score boards. As a starting point, we have a supply list for manual score boards that Eric made for the KRC Judo Club. It was agreed we need electronic score boards, but discussion pointed out that we need to develop procedures addressing how to take care of them and the logistics of getting them to our various events. The purchase of an official CARE System (\$2500) was dropped from the proposed budget – we simply cannot afford it at this time. It was noted that the trailer needs maintenance – there are holes in the wheel wells/floor that allow water to enter the trailer while traveling on wet roads. This needs to be fixed. We may need an additional trailer if we can find our missing mats.

Motion: accept the proposed budget as modified. (attached to these minutes) (Passed as Amended)

H. New Business

Background checks. It was proposed to require Background Checks for all individuals in a leadership role of any OJI program or function.

Discussion: We should require background checks for all adults Involved in our activities. (coaches, referees, chaperones, visiting instructors, etc.) Facilities that house camps, etc. require them. Cost (through USA Judo) is \$16/person. How do we accomplish it? (It was suggested that USA Judo sometimes loses certificates of background checks.) Anyone doing one-on-one interactions or chaperones of a group of children or in a supervisory position should be required to pass a background check. Motion: To develop procedures for background checks for officials in OJI. (Passed)

Ohio Recognition Program. It was proposed that OJI institute a program to recognize outstanding athletes and other proponents who develop and support Judo in Ohio. Ray Smith discussed parts of the Indiana Recognition Program he observed at the Indiana State Championships. Russ Scherer talked about Wisconsin’s Hall of Fame Program, as well as prior awards given in Ohio to Outstanding Judoka in the following categories – Junior Competitor, Senior Competitor, Coach, Referee, and Administrator/Support Personnel. It was suggested that a discussion with Vickie Daniels be set up to find out more about the Indiana program.

I. Resolutions and Orders

None

J. Set Date for Next Meeting

A date for the next Executive Committee Meeting will be set by the President upon review of the calendar. The next Board of Directors Meeting will be held at the conclusion of the Ohio Championships in Lima on March 18, 2017.

K. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn, seconded passed.

Submitted by Laura Suzuki (Secretary) - Reviewed and Approved by Russ Scherer (President)