

Florida Judo Association February 8, 2009

Inaugural meeting held at Central Florida Judo & Jujitsu

Attendees:

Last	First	Phone	Email
Szrejter	Mike	561-704-3414	mikesz@bellsouth.net
Andreas	William E	352-205-0055	senseijudo@aol.com
Vogt	Hans	561-213-9007	havog2001@yahoo.com
Smith	Randy	954-818-4151	randys409@aol.com
Parritt	Dave	321-544-3290	dparritt@hotmail.com
McClain	Bridget	321-259-4808	bridget-mcclain@berkeley.edu
Ellis	David	321-724-1824	awejudo@rocketmail.com
Delvalle	Earl	941-228-9029	budobug@gmail.com
Conn	Jeffrey	941-529-8697	baronozone@yahoo.com
Vititoe	David	321-258-8090	davejanetv@earthlink.net
Favorite	Howard	407-373-2518	judogolfer777@yahoo.com
Corley	John	305-335-5465	vietnam298@aol.com

Please check your details and let me know if it is not correct Hans

Start 1:05 pm

Agenda:

Welcome / Overview

Elect executive officers

Open discussion of goals and expectations

Intro by Mike Szrejter

Welcome to everyone, and mentions that several USJA clubs are not represented

Gives an overview of steps taken so far and current status

- FJA incorporated last year,
- Checking account has been opened containing \$1040, proceeds from last years Disney Martial Arts festival
- Application for 501c3 Status with IRS started
- Bylaws discussed and approved in email exchanges prior to this meeting

Our bylaws require us to hold board meetings three times a year, before national organization meetings scheduled for the Senior Nationals, USJA Junior Nationals and US Open

This first meeting as a group, Mike Szrejter is currently the only listed official.

Mike is not looking for a position on Executive Committee. Clay Contouris did all the registration and filing paperwork. Others involved at early stages were Dave Parritt, Dave Ellis, Chris Rasmussen, Bill Andreas, Randy Smith, Carl Hayes, Earl Delvalle, and Mindy Buehman. The bylaws are a conglomerate of USJA and USA Judo and Florida Judo Inc. bylaws, both non-profit 501c3 corporations.

One reason for creating the Florida Judo Association: Most players in Florida are members of USJA, 2 Yudanshakais, FJI and/or USA Judo. All organizations take care of their members first. FJA is founded for USJA members and member clubs, closer to the members than the mother organization in Colorado Springs, with more regional goals.

The FJA will also work as an entity in the state as a cohesive organization. The USJA has only one central office, and club owners deal directly with USJA. They are in charge of their clubs. Having a state organization helps to create a team, improving relationships between USJA affiliated clubs. By proving to other Judo players in the state that FJA clubs and members are working and playing well together will to attract Judoka from all over.

Mike then solicits questions and any other opinions.

Bill Andreas – Does the FJA have a mission statement? He is not aware of one done in writing.; proposes this as additional agenda item.

Mike Szejter asks to proceed with the elections of executive officers first.

Executive Officers

Secretary

Hans Vogt nominated by Randy Smith; all in favor, no nays, no abstentions. Task of the Secretary is to take meeting minutes only. Hans Vogt accepts.

Treasurer

Mike Szejter nominates Clay Contouris as treasurer. Background: Clay is an Accountant, is familiar with the organization, and did all the paper work to set up the FJA. Clay also agreed to take the position when elected prior to the meeting. Motion to accept by Bill Andreas. Unanimously accepted.

President:

Mike Szejter took the position only in the interim to get the organization going as a president is the only required position to create an organization. He would accept to serve as president for the first term, if nominated. John Corley nominates Mike. Motion carries.

Vice President

Earl Delvalle nominates Chris Rasmussen and Bill Andreas. Duties of a VP are detailed in the bylaws. Discussion: Chris currently very busy in a new job and may not have the bandwidth to serve effectively. Other nominations: David Ellis declines. Randy Smith declines. Bill Andreas elected unanimously.

Director of Operations

(This election actually came later after reviewing the bylaws)

Duties: Oversee tournaments, for details see bylaws. David Ellis nominated.

Discussion: David Ellis is currently a FJI Executive Committee member until 2010. This could pose a potential conflict of interest. However the limited scope of the position during the time remaining in David's FJI term will not be a problem.

David Ellis nominated, accepted unanimously.

Executive committee complete

Commitees:

Finance and Budget:

Mike Szejter asks to create a committee to use FJA funds.

Discussion:

Dave Parritt: Good idea, needed to align different opinions and ideas in the organization. Funding committee to give directions, John Corley: Allow coach from each member school to decide. Chartered

clubs (15+ USJA members) have a vote, but others should have also say in accumulating or disbursing funds. The Bylaws state that a Finance & Budget Committee is required, chaired by the treasurer. All coaches come with funding ideas and requests. Clay Contouris will be tasked to establish the committee.

Standards & Rules:

Earl Delvalle, John Corley volunteer, John Paccione (not present) nominated by Mike Szejter.

Public Relations:

Chaired by VP, Bill Andreas asked to establish PR Committee.

Law & Legislative issues:

For now Executive board will take this task, Mike Szejter asks to add Carl Hayes, as he has related experience.

Development committee:

Per bylaws, this committee is to coordinate between regions.

Discussion: Are regions needed? Bylaws to be revised on committee recommendation. Mike Szejter nominates David Ellis, Bill Andreas, and Dave Parritt. All accept.

Audit committee:

Chaired by Treasurer, for now Clay Contouris will be the committee and add members as needed when the organization grows.

Optional Counselor: All coaches to look in clubs for suitable attorneys who would like to step up for legal counsel.

Committees are to meet or communicate via email and report back at the next FJA meeting.

Other discussions and questions:

Is there a dependency of the FJA and USJA?

Mike Szejter states that the FJA not part of USJA, but geared to support of the USJA in Florida. The FJA is an independent, legally separate entity. Funds come from tournaments, clinics, and there is no financial relationship with the USJA.

John Corley: **Is this putting us in an adversary position to USJA?**

Mike Szejter: No, the FJA is supportive of the USJA, and helping the USJA, but not depending on or in any dependency of the USJA. The USJA will continue to perform the headquarter functions (promotions, etc.).

How to fund the FJA?

The FJA will get funds through donations from USJA Florida State Championships, which are coming up in March '09, and The Disney Martial Arts Festival in October '09.

Funding from dues is not planned.

Bill Andreas: Two events (State Championships, Disney) should be enough.

Mike Szejter: Other events can be added, e.g., camps, clinics (Nick Lowe, Neil Adams).

Mike refers to the Carolinas camp (Greatest Camp on Earth) as an example, but a better proposal would probably be to hold clinics: costs are limited, expenses defined and by setting up such events though a central organization has advantages to organizing them through clubs. The first event coming up is the State Championships – all FJA member clubs are asked to advertise and support the tournament to maximize income.

FJA Goals

One goal of the FJA is to funnel funds to members and players. The primary reason to establish a new organization was to support players and clubs, and to serve as a shining example for working together Judo, helping to grow the organization and the art..

John Corley: Parents don't see support for players, and they don't see their contributions come back to the local players. This should be the goal of FJA. Bill Andreas responds that the Development Committee will look into that.

Dave Parritt: Parents feel disenfranchised by the elite programs. FJA should be supporting grassroots. He proposes to maximize clinic funds by using local talent (citing Mike Szrejter: What makes an expert? A hundred miles), - not just big names.

Mike Szrejter mentions that a national study showed that 80% of members in USJA are there for recreational reasons. Support non-elite players. And contrary to the public perception, a lot of elite players in USA Judo are self-funded until they get medals. The FJA is to concentrate on supporting, and aiding all USJA members in Florida, not just the ones who want to go to Olympics.

Break 1:50 until 2pm

Discussion of other options to raise funds

Mike Szrejter: At tournaments Tomodachi donates funds to clubs that run tables. Volunteers can help run tables for the FJA,.

Dave Ellis asks to hold clinics to teach technical officials. Randy Smith responds that Tomodachi does that within the club with the electronic scoreboards. A proposal to hold a TO Clinic at the next tournament, the Cherry Blossom Open held by Tomodachi, is not feasible: most people arrive Saturday morning in time for registration, making it too late for a clinic. Training should be before tournaments.

Tomodachi to support one FJA table at the Cherry Blossom Open, table proceeds to go to FJA.

Bill Andreas raises the question whether FJA officials are in conflict with USJA, USA Judo, FJI bylaws, esp. the ones being members of other boards? David Ellis – There is a possibility of conflict according to USA Judo rules, not with FJI.

National Politics

Mike Szrejter provides an update on USJA national politics: 2:10 --- 2:40

Other issues

Mike Szrejter asks if anybody has recently heard of or contacted Frank Philips.

Upcoming Event: February 28, 2009 Shodan, Nidan and Sandan testing at Tomodachi.

Available Master Examiners in Florida: Mike Szrejter, Bill Andreas and Dave Parritt, in addition there are others.

Summary and conclusion:

Are we on the right track with this organization?

Dave Parritt: We are all individuals, this will help to focus activities, for example to promote Judo.

Earl Delvalle: Coaches don't know each other, and usually don't have contact with each other. The FJA will bring people/coaches together, sharing experiences.

John Corley: Politics are new to me, I started with Ed Szrejter in the USJA, his head coach is USA Judo, Now I am signing up USJA members in Budokan. I don't like politics, but see people who should be playing on higher levels are not supported. Not many people can attend national tournaments, I hate

to waste talent because of lack of funds. This organization need to stay focused on supporting such players, money must go the right way to the right people.

Jeff Conn: We don't need a lot of money doing things, but get and keep people involved, look at older people and kids, who are not interested in competition and Sport Judo, the recreational judokas.

Mike Szrejter: The Finance Committee should come up with a plan to create and disburse funds.

Bill Andreas: Once the FJA has completed the 501c3 certification, people who know anything about grant writing should come forward. There is money available, for example the Florida Lottery gives \$10K annually (source Henry Saavedra, the FJI treasurer), but the applications have to be written and pursued.

John Corley: How do we keep this group together, don't give funds to non-contributors; how to deal with people wanting more out than they put in?

Mike Szrejter: The bylaws and committees should take care of such issues. Keep communication open, communicate via email. The FJA will have a section on JudoUS.com (Mike's Tomodachi website). Someone - not a member of Tomodachi - should look into establishing and maintaining a dedicated FJA website.

John Corley: The FJA needs a website as a draw Judo Googlers away from the FJI website, and to give people disenchanted by the other organizations a place to see what the FJA is about, show the goals and that it is better organized.

Mike Szrejter believes that this will occur naturally. People will see the FJA and come over.

Dave Parritt asks about unaffiliated clubs in Florida, there are about 40 clubs that don't belong to any organization. Such clubs could be pulled in for the greater goal to promote and unite Judo in Florida. John Corley volunteers to reach out to other. nonaffiliated clubs.

Mike Szrejter has the filing papers to create Yudanshakai with the USJF. The FJA could be a third Yudanshakai in Florida. No mandate to file yet.

Bill Andreas asks coaches to look into tournament registration for the Cherry Blossom Open. – online preregistration donates \$5 back to the club. Mike Szrejter to mail out spreadsheets for preregistration to interested parties.

Any other business?

No other business at this time.

Next meeting:

Bylaws require that the next FJA meeting must be scheduled 45 days before the USJA Junior Nationals on June 19/21. FJA members to communicate via email to agree on a date end of April.

Meeting adjourned 3:12pm.