

2025 Annual General Meeting

JUDO BC BOARD, COMMITTEES & STAFF REPORT
Key Activities December 2024 to December 2025

Message from the President and the Board of Directors

On behalf of the Judo BC Board of Directors, it is our great pleasure to present the 2025 Year in Review—an extraordinary snapshot of a year defined by growth, progress, and renewed community strength. This year, we celebrated the **largest membership in our 61-year history**, welcomed new clubs and new leaders, and saw unprecedented engagement across programs, training opportunities, and competitions.

Judo is growing in British Columbia, and that is a good thing. Please take a moment to reflect on the role you played in making this happen! Judo BC only grows from the efforts made by its membership. Here are my thoughts:

Club Senseis continue to work tirelessly on delivering a quality experience for our members based on judo's values, and we are at a time in history where values in sport and society are being prioritized.

Our volunteer base is strong and growing at a grass roots level. Without this base, judo in BC could not grow. This includes, of course, referees, timekeepers, coaches, tournament and mini shiai organizers, committee members, fundraising volunteers, right down to those of us cleaning the dojos!

Our leadership is listening to our members.

We have a strong staff: with Katie at the helm of our administration and Jeremy achieving incredible results on our competitive performance side, we have a strong base for growth as well. Our new staff, Cynthia and just recently Kouga, can and will continue to help us grow.

Judo is growing in BC, which is also creating some challenges. As you are likely aware Judo BC underwent a review by Sport Law, sponsored by one

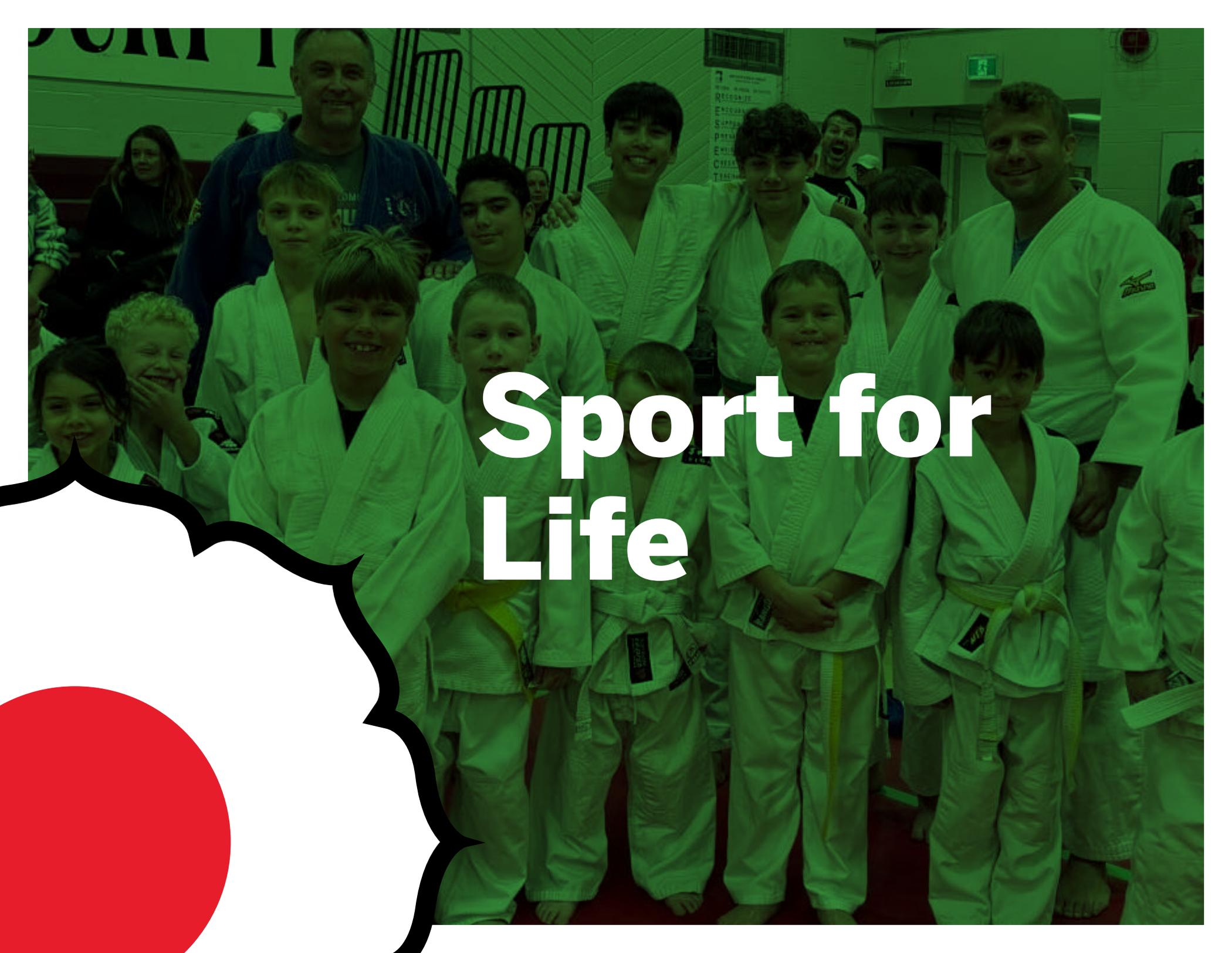
Message from the President and the Board of Directors

of our main funding providers, viaSport BC. They identified gaps and inconsistencies in the way our organization is structured and provided a formula for how they believe an organization like ours should be structured. Most notably, how we vote for our leadership. At our June leaders' conference, we received some excellent feedback on how Judo BC should restructure and as a result, we have created a Governance Committee to guide our organization as we navigate change. We want to get this right, and feel that we may not have heard from all sectors of our membership. We will be looking for feedback on proposed governance and voting structures. Stay tuned.

My objective for 2026 is to have our new governance structure before the membership to vote on for the next AGM.

Through this collaboration we will continue to grow our sport, honour its traditions and ensure that judo in British Columbia remains welcoming, inclusive and strong for generations to come.

Sincerely,
Ian Briggs
Judo BC President



Sport for Life

Sport for Life



GOAL:

Restore pre Covid-19 membership numbers in all regions

ACHIEVED IN 2023



SPORT FOR LIFE GOAL 2024 UPDATE:

Create a vibrant and inclusive judo community where individuals of all ages, backgrounds, and experiences can thrive, contribute, and feel a strong sense of belonging.

GOAL: increase equity and participation across all age groups, genders by 5% and increase diversity of membership by 5%.

Sport for Life

In 2025, Judo BC reached an extraordinary milestone, celebrating the **largest membership in our 61-year history** with **3,500 individual participants** across the province. This remarkable growth reflects the strength, passion, and resilience of our judo community. It was also a record-breaking year for programming, including our **largest Girls Camp to date with 50 participants**, along with **15 Regional Shiais, 5 Petit Samurai events, 5+ regional camps and clinics**, and **4 female-only regional training sessions**. Together, these events created more opportunities than ever for athletes of all ages and levels to learn, compete, and connect.

Our **commitment to judo excellence** was equally outstanding this year. Across the province, we delivered **7 Kata Clinics with 189 participants** and celebrated an impressive **65 Black Belt promotions**—a testament to the dedication, discipline, and deep respect for judo's principles

shown by our community. This included **33 Shodan, 17 Nidan, 5 Sandan, 4 Yondan, 5 Godan**, and the **prestigious Rokudan rank awarded to Paul Whishaw**. These achievements highlight not only the growing mastery of technique, but also our collective commitment to upholding the traditions and philosophy of judo for future generations.

3 New Judo Clubs

DOKA JUDO CLUB

GOAL:

To create a welcoming home for everyone, regardless of age, gender, or physical ability, to practice Judo and Jiu-Jitsu.

HEAD SENSEI:

Eric Chui
dokamartialarts.ca

JOINED IN JULY 2025
LOCATED IN RICHMOND

LEGEND MARTIAL ARTS ACADEMY

GOAL:

Legend Martial Arts is a welcoming space where people from all backgrounds can learn self-defense, stay active, and become part of a supportive community.

HEAD SENSEI:

Bruce Sydnam
legendmartialartsacademy.com

JOINED IN AUGUST 2025
LOCATED IN DAWSON CREEK

BOWEN ISLAND JUDO CLUB

GOAL:

Fitness, fun, and judo for any experience level. BJC believes martial arts training should be challenging, empowering, fun, and a space where everyone feels encouraged to grow at their own pace.

HEAD SENSEI:

Cohen Hocking
bowenjudo.ca

JOINED IN NOVEMBER 2025
LOCATED IN BOWEN ISLAND



Excellence

Excellence



GOAL:

Four U18 athletes at the Judo Canada G standard, three U21 at E standard, and top 5 finish at U18 or U21 World Championships

ACHIEVED IN 2025



Excellence

HIGH-LEVEL HOSTING

2025 was an exceptional year for high-level event hosting in British Columbia, marked by record-breaking participation and world-class learning opportunities for athletes. The Pacific International reached its highest numbers to date, drawing **947 athlete entries, 117 coaches, and 64 referees and kata judges**, reaffirming its position as one of Canada's premier judo tournaments. The Provincial Championships also saw significant growth, with **participation increasing by approximately 20%**. Across the province, Judo BC delivered **10+ Provincial Training Camps and Clinics**, highlighted by the Fall Inter-Provincial Camp featuring **Olympic silver medalist Joshiro Maruyama**, which welcomed an incredible **469 participants**. Other special guest instructors included world-class judoka Hiraoki Hiraoka and Kim Won Jin, providing unforgettable learning experiences for developing athletes.

TOP BC ATHLETES

BC athletes continued to shine on the international stage, achieving results that reflect both exceptional talent and unwavering dedication. **Lowan Le Bris** delivered a standout season with 5th at Cadet Worlds, 3rd at the Cadet European Cup in Croatia, 3rd at the Cadet Pan-American and Oceania Championships in Peru, and recognition as Judo Canada's U18 Athlete of the Year. **Carla Van Zyl** achieved remarkable success with 7th at Junior Worlds, 3rd at the Junior European Cup in Portugal, 1st at the Senior Pan-American Cup in Montreal, 1st at the Junior Pan-American Cup in Panama, and was named Judo Canada's U21 Female Athlete of the Year, adding further podium finishes in Czechia and Paraguay. **Maegan Grooten** earned 3rd at the Cadet Pan-American and Oceania Championships and was selected to compete at Cadet Worlds. **Amir Temirbaev** secured 5th at the 2025 Pan-American and Oceania Championships in Peru, qualified for Cadet Worlds, and claimed Senior Open Nationals gold, showcasing his rising potential.

Excellence

RESULTS AT THE 2025 OPEN NATIONALS

Judo BC athletes delivered an outstanding collective performance at the **2025 Open National Championships**, earning an impressive **total of 41 medals across all divisions**. The team captured **8 Gold, 12 Silver, and 21 Bronze medals**, demonstrating depth, resilience, and excellence throughout the competition. These results highlight the strength of BC's athlete development pathways and the dedicated work of coaches, clubs, and families across the province.



A woman in a dark suit and tie, with a red poppy pinned to her lapel, stands in a gymnasium with her right hand raised. She is officiating a martial arts match. In the foreground, two athletes are lying on a blue mat; one is wearing a blue gi and the other a white gi with a green belt. The background shows a blurred audience in bleachers.

Coaching & Officiating

Coaching & Officiating



GOAL:

Increase the number and quality of active officials and active certified coaches by 10% in all regions

ACHIEVED IN 2025



Coaching & Officiating

In 2025, Judo BC made significant progress in strengthening technical leadership across the province, supporting the ongoing development of referees and coaches at all levels. **Education and certification remained a major priority**, resulting in strong participation and meaningful advancement within our community. Key highlights include:

- **3 Referee Seminars/Meetings**
- **39 Referee promotions**
- **4 Coaching Courses delivered**
- **53 participants completed the Dojo Assistant modules**
- **45 participants completed the Dojo Instructor modules**
- **22 Coaches evaluated to become fully certified Dojo Instructors and/or Dojo Assistants**

These achievements reflect Judo BC's ongoing commitment to building capacity, enhancing technical excellence, and ensuring consistent, high-quality learning pathways for leaders across the province.



Coaching & Officiating

COACH 2.0 MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Seven dedicated coaches traveled to San Marino, Europe, as part of the Judo BC Coach 2.0 Mentorship Program—an initiative designed to inspire and elevate the next generation of competitive coaches. This program supports emerging leaders as they build their expertise, broaden their international experience, and deepen their commitment to athlete development. Coaches apply and are selected based on their progress in the NCCP pathway and their involvement in the Provincial Team Program. The experience concludes with an intensive seminar led by world-renowned coaching experts, offering invaluable learning and mentorship.

The program has a strong legacy: the first cohort launched in 2018 and concluded with a week-long international coaching seminar in France in 2019. Stay tuned—details about the third edition of the Coach 2.0 Program, beginning in 2026/27, will be announced in 2026.





Organizational Development

Organizational Development



GOAL:

Sustainable, effective, and efficient structure and systems in place to support Sport for Life, Excellence, and Coaching and Officiating in all regions and at the Judo BC level and restore revenues to pre-Covid-19 level

ACHIEVED IN 2025



Organizational Development

SAFE SPORT

In 2025, Judo BC strengthened its commitment to Safe Sport by establishing a formal partnership with **ITP Sport**, an Independent Third Party responsible for managing concerns related to conduct and safety within all sanctioned activities. This partnership ensures that all reports are handled through a neutral, professional, and transparent process, reinforcing fairness and accountability across our community. ITP Sport provides dedicated support for the intake, assessment, and resolution of complaints, conducts impartial investigations, and maintains strict confidentiality throughout the process to protect everyone involved. By engaging an independent expert service, Judo BC is taking an important and proactive step toward safeguarding the well-being of our members and upholding the highest standards of conduct in our sport.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Two New Board Members: In December 2025, Judo BC welcomed two new Board members, marking an important step toward greater gender balance in leadership—moving from a Board of five males to one composed of three males and two females, better reflecting our membership. **Mariko Glover**, an active competitor and NCCP Level 2 Dojo Instructor who began judo later in life, brings a vibrant athlete-centered perspective shaped by her experiences at national and international events. **Maaike Van Kooten**, a lifelong judoka who earned her Nidan in 2016 and now teaches at Victoria Judo Club, contributes extensive competitive, international, and professional experience through her work as a researcher with the National Research Council Canada. Together, Mariko and Maaike strengthen the Board with their passion, expertise, and commitment to advancing judo in British Columbia.

Organizational Development

New Full-time Staff: Judo BC welcomed **Kouga Kagei**, 4th dan, to the newly created full-time role of Sport Development Coordinator and Provincial Coach in September 2025.

Kouga is a highly accomplished judoka with top national results, including top 5 finishes at the All Japan Championships (2018, -90kg) and the Japanese National University Athletic Championships (2021, -90kg). He completed his Bachelor of Sport and Health Science at the Juntendo University in Japan, where he was also a key member of the Judo Team.

This position strengthens our capacity to support athletes, clubs, coaches, and officials across the province. Kouga leads the Next Wave program for U12 and U14 athletes, supports Senior and Veteran athletes, and travels with Team BC to major tournaments and training camps. In addition, he

plays an integral role in provincial sport development by visiting clubs, promoting LTAD-aligned practices, leading training sessions, and collaborating with coaches on long-term athlete and program development. This strategic hire represents a significant step forward in expanding our technical leadership, enhancing athlete pathways, and deepening Judo BC's support for member clubs across the province.

OPERATIONAL ENHANCEMENT INITIATIVE

The Operational Enhancement Initiative (OEI) provided Judo BC with an in-depth, independent review of our governance, operations, and organizational culture, offering a **roadmap to strengthen our long-term sustainability**. Through this process, Sport Law assessed our alignment with viaSport BC's Standards of Practice,

Organizational Development

examined our governance structures, policies, human resources, financial management, risk oversight, and committee framework, and engaged our Board, staff, and key volunteers in evaluating our organizational culture through the Provincial Sport Culture Index. The report highlighted many existing strengths - particularly **our strong values, commitment to Safe Sport, detailed strategic and operational planning, and robust risk-management resources**—while also identifying opportunities to modernize our governance model, clarify roles, strengthen policy systems, and enhance diversity and board development.

In total, **36 recommendations were provided**, ranging from updating bylaws and committee structures to improving human resources processes, financial controls, and board recruitment practices. The report also underscored the importance of

improving clarity and communication for operational committees and strengthening psychological safety, belonging, and accountability across the organization. **Judo BC is well-positioned to move forward** with a structured implementation plan that will enhance transparency, efficiency, and alignment across all levels of the organization - ultimately creating a stronger, safer, and more sustainable environment for our athletes, coaches, officials, clubs, and volunteers

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Since 2018 Judo BC has celebrated the amazing achievements of our athletes, coaches, officials, clubs and volunteers from across the Judo BC community. This year we recognized **10 athletes, 5 volunteers, 4 coaches, 3 officials, 2 clubs, 1 event and 2 special individuals**.

Organizational Development

Fred Gietz was awarded the Steve Sasaki Award, which is presented annually to a long time member of Judo BC who exemplifies the principles of Kodokan Judo.

Since 15 mats were left as a legacy of the BC Winter games in 1987, Fred Gietz has committed himself to the Fernie Judo Club. In 2012 when asked by a reporter trying out a judo class – “Why do you continue to practice judo?” his answer was “In judo, you work together with your partner. But the number one reason we do it is because it’s fun.” This exemplifies the principles of Kodokan Judo.

Head Sensei of the club, President of the Fernie Elks lodge which he joined after witnessing first hand how much support they gave to the Fernie Judo Club, NCCP learning facilitator and member of the Judo BC Coach Development Committee, Fred Gietz has made an enduring impact on the judo community — through

leadership, mentorship, and unwavering dedication to the values of respect, perseverance, and community.

Congratulations, Sensei Gietz – this recognition is truly well-deserved!



Organizational Development

Hermann Mauthner of Invermere Judo Club received the Life Membership.

About Hermann Mauthner...

Founder and head sensei of the Invermere Judo Club from 1967 to 2020. Over 2000 individuals have been a part of this club over the past 50+ years with more than 12 black belts developed. As a coach Hermann produced many successful athletes including Debbie Seel who became the first Canadian Champion from BC in 1981, and in 1987 Carey-Ho Hoffman received the first gold medal handed out to a female at the Canada Winter Games.

In addition the club has hosted numerous local, regional, and provincial tournaments and events over the past 57 years including the Blue Lake Summer Camp and the 2018 Fall Inter-Provincial Camp. Hermann is a past winner of the Judo BC Steve

Sasakai Award and the club has third generation participants.

Hermann Mauthner's commitment and spirit truly embody what makes our judo community so special. Congratulations! His contributions have helped shape the next generation of judoka in British Columbia and beyond.



Judo BC 2025 Annual Conference

Building Our Future — Shaping the Next Era of Judo in British Columbia

June 20-22, 2025



Overview

Over 60 participants from across the province attended the conference to reflect on our mission and values, explore challenges and opportunities, and shape priorities for the 2025–2030 Strategic Plan



Mission & Values

- Reaffirmed judo as a lifelong sport for building community, respect, and resilience
- Emphasized inclusiveness and accessibility
- Discussed challenges in retaining teenagers, young black belts, and adults



Evolving Sport Landscape

- Discussed growing pressures from for-profit sport models
- Explored engaging underrepresented groups
- Emphasized adapting to generational shifts

Judo BC 2025 Annual Conference

Building Our Future — Shaping the Next Era of Judo in British Columbia

June 20-22, 2025



Governance & Organizational Development

- Supported governance modernization and succession planning
- Reviewed ViaSport BC recommendations
- Recognized need for stronger communication



Program & Member Development

- Called for regional clinics and kata and referee training
- Emphasized “Judo for Life” programming
- Highlighted value of youth and females programs



Looking Ahead: 2025–2030 Strategic Plan

- Membership growth and retention across all age groups
- Coach, referee, and volunteer development

Organizational Development

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

The 2024–25 Judo BC Membership Survey engaged **193 respondents from across British Columbia**, representing athletes, parents, coaches, and club leaders. The feedback provides a strong snapshot of the provincial judo community's experiences, priorities, and aspirations as Judo BC prepares its 2025–30 Strategic Plan. Respondents expressed pride in their clubs and in Judo BC's leadership, with appreciation for initiatives such as training camps, development programs, and efforts to strengthen inclusion and communication.

Overall, the tone of the feedback was positive and forward-looking. Members want to see continued investment in athlete and coach development, more regional tournaments and training opportunities, and stronger pathways for recreational participation. The results highlight an engaged and supportive

membership that values collaboration between Judo BC and local clubs to grow participation, enhance retention, and ensure judo remains accessible and welcoming throughout the province.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

The newly created Governance Committee, chaired by **Maaïke Van Kooten** will play a central role in strengthening Judo BC's internal governance by providing dedicated oversight and guidance on bylaws, committee structures, and strategic planning processes. This committee, which includes board members **Tetsu Takagaki & Mariko Glover**, will support the ongoing modernization of our governance framework, ensuring our bylaws remain current, clear, and aligned with Judo Canada and viaSport BC. It will also review and recommend committee configurations that

Organizational Development

promote accountability, transparency, and effective volunteer engagement. In addition, the Governance Committee will contribute to the development and implementation of Judo BC's long-term strategic plans, helping to create a cohesive, forward-looking governance structure that supports the association's growth and sustainability. This is one of several committees recommended as part of the Operational Enhancement Initiative.

2020-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

Judo BC's 2020–2025 Strategic Plan has been an **exceptional success, with all four major goals fully achieved**. Over the past five years, we restored and then surpassed pre-pandemic membership levels, strengthened gender equity and regional programming, and expanded participation across underrepresented groups. Our Excellence

pathway delivered record results, with more athletes reaching Judo Canada standards, increased regional and national participation, and meaningful progress toward national and international podium performances. Coaching and officiating capacity grew steadily, supported by more certifications, enhanced professional development, and stronger retention.

Finally, our commitment to **Organizational Readiness** transformed our systems and financial resiliency - restoring revenues well beyond pre-COVID levels, modernizing governance and policies, expanding Safe Sport compliance, and building robust tools, resources, and partnerships that now underpin every aspect of our operations. Together, these achievements demonstrate a renewed, strengthened, and future-focused Judo BC ready for the next strategic cycle.

Judo BC Board, Staff & Committees

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President - Ian Briggs

Treasurer – Tetsu Takagaki

Directors at Large – Eric Cherneff, Mariko Glover & Maaike Van Kooten

ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chair – Aline Strasdin

Members – Kane Morishita, Layton Keely, Chin-I Hsiang, Stu Leatherdale, Jeremy Le Bris

BC Winter Games Advisor – Jeremy Grant

COACH DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chair – Bruce Fingarson

Members – John Huntley, Fred Gietz, Donna Hanson

EQUITY COMMITTEE

Chair – Ashley Nobeashi

Members – Cynthia Tan, Aline Strasdin, Yuki

Yokosawa, Donna Hanson, Renee Hock, Lisa Nakajima, Katie Thomson

GRADING COMMITTEE

Chair – Eric Cherneff

Members – Mickey Fitzgerald, Ron Kuramoto, Aline Strasdin, Bruce Kamstra, Paul Wishaw

KATA COMMITTEE

Chair – John Morris

Members – Ron Kuramoto, Aline Strasdin, Stephen Duran

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Regional Coordinators

Ashley Nobeashi – Metro Vancouver

Aline Strasdin - North

Jeremy Grant - Island

Stu Leatherdale – Okanagan

Jeanette Riches - Kootenays

Judo BC Board, Staff & Committees

REFEREE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chairs – Graham Magnusson & Brian Deevy

Members – Ron Kuramoto, Paul Wishaw, Aartje Sheffield

TOURNAMENT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chair – Ramon Rodriguez

Members – Aline Strasdin, Giuseppe Emanuele, Steve Horvath Rodriguez, Jeremy Le Bris

LIFE MEMBERS

Robert Griechen - Rokudan

Haruo (Hap) Hirata - Rokudan

John Huntley - Shichidan

Yeiji (Lanky) Inouye*† - Kudan

Takao Kawasaki* -

Yuzuru (Jim) Kojima - Shichidan

Isao Kuramoto - Rokudan

Martin Kuramoto † - Rokudan

Yves Le Gal – Shichidan

Hermann Mauthner - Yondan

Yoshitaka Mori*† - Shichidan

George Mukai - Shodan (hon)

Tom Mukai - Hachidan

Art Nishi - Shichidan

Radomir Orescanin† - Rokudan

Seiko Ouchi - Godan

Doug Rogers*† - Rokudan

James Ramsay† - Rokudan

Tokue Suda - Shichidan

Henry Uyeda - Rokudan

Ricky Yodogawa – Godan

STAFF

Executive Director – Katie Thomson

Sport Development Director – Jeremy Le Bris

Sport Development Coordinator – Kouga Kagei

Communications and Programs Coordinator –

Cynthia Tan

Judo BC Board, Staff & Committees

CONTRACTORS

Team BC Manager & Travel Coordinator – Sandra Le Bris

Merchandise Coordinator – Layton Keely

Online Course Coordinator – Giuseppe Emmanuele



JUDO BC

judobc.ca