



# UNITED STATES JUDO FEDERATION

## National Office

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## COVID-19 Pandemic 2020

**(November 15, 2020)**

Initial document dated March 14, 2020, with 1<sup>st</sup> update added on April 2, 2020

Updates added on April 15, 2020, are highlighted in ~~YELLOW~~

Updates added on April 30, 2020, are highlighted in ~~FLORESCENT GREEN~~.

Updates added on May 31, 2020, are highlighted in **LIGHT BLUE**.

Updates added on July 15, 2020, are highlighted in **LIGHT GRAY**.

Updates added on August 31, 2020 are highlighted in **FLORESCENT PINK**

Updates added on September 30, 2020 are highlighted in **YELLOW**. We are cycling through the same colors for highlighting.

Updates added on November 15, 2020, are highlighted in **FLORESCENT GREEN**.

Thank you very much to Dr. Ricardo Joseph, Dr. Eric Chen, and **Dr. Jeffrey Fujimoto** of the USJF Medical Committee for their time and expertise in helping to put together this information along with recommendations for our community. This will be helpful for everyone as we all work through the trying & difficult times ahead.

• Reminder... We are using the phases and descriptions from the **USOPC guidelines**. **These USOPC guidelines DO NOT SUPERCEDE your local/county/state health guidelines**. You must make sure that your operations comply with your local/county/state health guidelines. Please ensure compliance by keeping up-to-date with your situation. **Non-compliance with your local/county/state health guidelines means non-compliance with the warranty provisions of insurance coverages = no insurance coverage = everyone participates at their own risk.**

• COVID-19 Liability: **Our liability policies DO NOT provide liability coverage for epidemic & pandemic diseases.**

• COVID-19 Accident Medical: **Our accident medical policy DOES NOT provide coverage for any COVID-19 pandemic related: infection, illness, injury, disability, death, economic loss, and etc.**

• Many states are starting to open up, easing some restrictions. Each state has its own specific and significantly varied time tables. It is incumbent upon each dojo/club to use the guidelines provided within this document in conjunction with local and state regulations. Please continue to keep current with your local situation.

• This document provides recommendations from the USJF Medical Committee on the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

• We must all behave responsibly to protect own health, but also to protect everyone's health by not contracting, carrying, and transmitting the COVID-19 virus to others.

• These recommendations are based on the current and most up-to-date information and data available at the time of creation. This was accomplished by researching and reviewing guidelines published by various sports medicine organizations, the American College of Emergency Physicians, the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

- We remind you that the COVID-19 pandemic is a rather fluid and sometimes chaotic environment with occasionally conflicting medical information.
- Keep yourself informed with the latest information, developments, and situation by visiting the CDC's COVID-19 page at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/>.
- Also visit your state's health department website, and keep up with your local news. Empowerment through knowledge and education is critical.
- It is vitally important for everyone to be mindful that each individual's health situation is unique and may require different strategies. Thus, we strongly recommend that people consult with their primary care physician/doctor/medical professional to ensure that they are taking the appropriate measures that are what is safest and most effective for their personal situation.
- These are general recommendations. It is NOT our intent to circumvent or replace the advice or directives from your primary care physician/doctor/medical professional.
- We encourage compliance with government recommendations, regulations, requirements, and laws.
- Our intent is to help keep all of our members safe while still retaining some flexibility for our high-level elite athletes.
- Though some states may have relaxed their restrictions and moved into higher phases and more allowable activities, many states are experiencing a resurgence in COVID-19 cases. This may lead to a return to lower phases and renewed restrictions. Please keep abreast of the latest developments in your area/jurisdiction and maintain proper observance and compliance with the phase status and guidance. You must be sure to move with the change in phases and adjust activities accordingly.
- Please remember, the COVID-19 pandemic is very fluid. This makes the phase and situation in your area/jurisdiction very fluid too. You must be fluid in your planning and activities for your athletes to properly protect them and maintain compliance with local regulations/restrictions.
- Please remember, our insurance coverages require compliance with regulations and accepted standard practices. Please be compliant to protect your students and yourselves. Please be compliant to ensure that insurance coverage is intact.

***Everyone Must Be Responsible & Diligent:***

Everyone involved (including coaches, parents, and spectators) will have to closely monitor their health and truly strive to remain healthy. We all have to realize and accept the fact that if anyone in our group gets sick/infected, with the COVID-19 virus, we will have to assume that we are ALL INFECTED until proven otherwise.

Please continue to be vigilant. It has been a long six (6) months and everyone is anxious to get back on the tatami to start training again and to spend time with our judo family. We are all fatigued with the bombardment of the issues and problems brought by COVID-19 and its effect on all of our lives. We must all continue to be patient. Unfortunately, many states and regions are undergoing another surge in the number of people testing positive with the COVID-19 virus. Additional caution is necessary as we are now heading into the start of the cold and flu season. As the health and safety of our members and students is the paramount concern, we must continue to make the appropriate decisions to ensure their safety and protection. Please be very cognizant and current on your local public guidelines.

Though too new to have enough study data available, COVID-19 infections may have some long-term negative effects on some individuals after they recover from it. So, it is best to avoid getting exposed/infected by it. When in doubt, please make the safe/conservative choice.

### **Insurance Coverage Update:**

On September 1, 2020, our new insurance policies for the new 2021 Fiscal Year, become effective. There are some major changes and they are briefly outlined here.

**COVID-19 Liability:** Our liability policies **DO NOT provide liability coverage** for epidemic & pandemic diseases. The current COVID-19 crisis has been declared a pandemic by both the US Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Therefore, any claims/lawsuits brought against you due to COVID-19: infection, illness, injury, disability, death, economic loss, and etc. **WILL NOT BE DEFENDED BY THE LIABILITY INSURANCE POLICIES.**

**COVID-19 Accident Medical:** Our accident medical policy does not provide coverage for any COVID-19 pandemic related: infection, illness, injury, disability, death, economic loss, and etc. The policy is intended to respond to **accidental injuries** incurred while doing sanctioned or approved judo. For example: sprains, broken limbs, dislocations, and etc. It does **NOT respond to claims arising from allergies, usual colds & flu, COVID-19, chickenpox and other communicable disease illness.** The accident medical policy is **NOT a replacement for your own health insurance/coverage. It is NOT a primary coverage policy and responds on a secondary basis in conjunction with your own health insurance.**

### **Return To Activity/Training After COVID-19 Infection:**

There can be many lingering side effects of having had a COVID-19 infection. One of them is the development of myocarditis – an inflammation of the heart muscle. Due to the dangers of myocarditis and other lingering COVID-19 damage/symptoms, any athlete who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, **MUST** be medically cleared with written authorization/clearance for strenuous physical activities such as judo **BEFORE** returning to judo activities from a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant.

### **Return To Training Phases 1-5 (updated):**

Phase 4 has been split into 4a & 4b. Please read new phase 4a & 4b definitions on page 4. The following is a very brief summary of the USOPC's April 28, 2020, Return to Training Considerations Post-COVID-19 document. It is appended to the end of this guidance document. Please be sure to read it in its entirety. Please be current and cognizant of the situation in your locale to ensure proper compliance with current rules and requirements.

Please keep in mind that the handling & treatments for the COVID-19 pandemic is a live, real-time experiment worldwide. It is impossible to impose a definitive timeline on the phased resumption of normal activity as the situation is very dynamic and fluid. Consequently, the return to activity phases depend on the situation and circumstance in your local jurisdiction. Your local public health authority's assessments will determine the mandates/edicts they issue. It is vitally important that you are current and have a good understanding of these mandates/edicts. Please follow them closely to be compliant with public health standards. This will help you to protect the health and safety of your students, yourselves, and your community.

## Regarding COVID-19 Testing:

There are now many different COVID-19 testing protocols and kits available. There are huge variations in pricing with little detailed information available regarding the accuracy and validity of these tests. Also, not all tests are available everywhere. This being so, though testing is important, it is difficult to recommend a particular protocol/test for people to take. Therefore, WE ARE NOT MAKING TESTING A REQUIREMENT.

## Mandatory Temperature Checks:

Temperature checks are MANDATORY for everyone prior to entering the dojo/club/training facility once we reach Phase 3 & 4. The maximum acceptable temperature for entry is 100.4°F/38° C. Someone with a temperature that is higher than this is considered to have a fever.

**Phase 1:** Public health authorities require shelter in place, public training facilities are closed  
***Dojos/clubs remain CLOSED. Individual home training & Virtual coaching ONLY.***

**Phase 2:** Public health authorities lift shelter in place requirements, but continue to prohibit group activities and public training facilities remain closed  
***Dojos/clubs remain CLOSED. Individual home training & Virtual coaching ONLY.***

**Phase 3:** Public health authorities allow small group activities (< 10 people), but public training facilities remain closed  
***Dojos/clubs remain CLOSED. Individual home training & Virtual coaching ONLY.***

~~**Phase 4:** Public health authorities allow public training facilities to open, no limitations on group size.~~

~~***Dojos/clubs may OPEN. Direct contact allowed to resume during this phase.***~~

**Phase 4a:** Public health authorities allow public training facilities to open WITH limitations on group size.

***Dojos/clubs may OPEN for individual training in small groups only if social distancing and masking are maintained. DIRECT CONTACT IS NOT ALLOWED.***

**Phase 4b:** Public health authorities allow public training facilities to open, no limitations on group size.

***Dojos/clubs may OPEN. Direct contact allowed to resume during this phase.***

**Phase 5:** A vaccine or cure for COVID-19 is developed  
***Same as Phase 4. Continue infection prevention methods.***

Please know the current phase in your local area/jurisdiction, apply, and adhere to it.

## Visitor Log:

If your dojo/club is OPEN or hosting/conducting any activities, please use a visitor log to have a listing of everyone who comes into the dojo/club. This includes: vendors, guests, visitors, parents, friends, relatives, potential students, students, athletes, and instructional staff. Basically, ANYONE who walks in the door. You should capture: the date that they were there, the person's name, a contact telephone number, and their temperature. A sample visitor log can be found on the last page of this document. Please feel free to make copies and use it.

If someone in the dojo tests positive for COVID-19, you should call everyone who has been exposed to let them know of the exposure so that they can take appropriate action. If someone tests positive, it is very likely that the local public health department will follow-up and conduct some contact tracing. Having good visitor logs will help facilitate their contact tracing efforts. Here's a link to the CDC page on contract tracing:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/contact-tracing.html>

### **Stay At Home/Shelter In Place:**

The federal government is recommending that the general public stay at home. Many state and municipal governments are recommending/mandating that the general public stay at home and shelter in place. We encourage you to support these recommendations and mandates. Avoid exposure to COVID-19 and stay home as much as possible. Be mindful of "social distancing" and put distance between yourself and other people, six (6) feet or more whenever possible to avoid contact with respirator droplets when an infected person talks, sneezes, or coughs. Try to avoid contact with people who are sick and people who have been exposed to COVID-19. Studies have suggested that COVID-19 may be spread by people when they appear to be asymptomatic.

### **Athletes Who Are 60+ Years Old or Have Underlying Health Conditions:**

Anyone over the age of 60, people with underlying health conditions, or are immune system compromised should stay off the tatami and away from the dojo. These individuals are at a higher risk for serious potentially life-threatening illness from COVID-19.

### **Recreational Athletes:**

There is no compelling reason that outweighs the potential dangers posed by COVID-19 for any recreational athlete to be on the tatami right now. We strongly advise that all "grassroots" clubs/dojos cease all activities IMMEDIATELY. Though the amount of time that the prohibition should remain in effect is debatable, **we suggest that six (6) weeks is a reasonable amount of time to start with.** **We are extending this prohibition through ~~May 15, 2020~~ ~~May 31, 2020~~ ~~June 30, 2020~~ ~~August 31, 2020~~ ~~September 30, 2020~~ ~~October 31, 2020~~ ~~December 31, 2020~~.**

If your jurisdiction does allow for judo activities. We highly recommend that athletes should have a limited number of training partners each practice or series of practices. Limiting the number of training partners will help to limit potential exposure to COVID-19. It is important that all training partners are behaving judiciously and limit their general activities. Remember, if someone is exposed to the virus, their exposure exposes all training partners to the virus too. This may not be practical for all dojos/clubs or possible at every practice, but it will present an extra layer of safety if someone ends up testing COVID-19 positive after attending class(es).

### **Elite Athletes (Seniors & IJF Juniors):**

Elite athletes may need to be handled differently depending upon their respective short-term competitive goals. All major national and international tournaments that were scheduled for this month or April have been postponed for at least 1-2 months. The IJF and PJC have suspended all activities through April 30, 2020. In the meantime elite players will likely still have to maintain some sort of limited or restrained work out schedule in order to remain competitive. For this small group we recommend that they strictly limit the number of partners involved in close contact with one another.

Best practice would be one (1) training partner per person without intermingling. Minimize contact time and liberally substitute conditioning and timing drills for heavy newaza and randori. Using alternative training methods such as exercise machines/devices, resistance bands or tire inner tubes for uchikomi, and etc.

For those who are engaged in direct contact training, please continue to confine your training to your small group of training partners. The virus is still too very rampant and infectious to safely expand your training group at this time. Expanding the size of your training team is expanding your potential exposure to COVID-19. Please continue with conservative measures to keep your training partners and yourself safe.

### **Personal Hygiene & New Habits:**

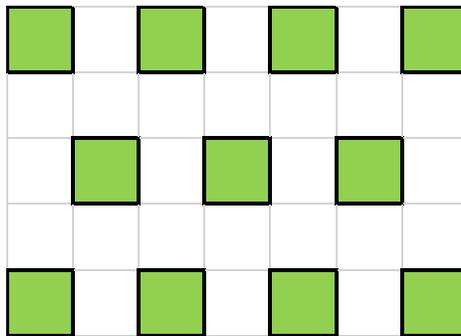
Now is a great opportunity to develop some great personal hygiene habits. Of critical importance is hygiene both before and after any training session.

1. All judogi's should be completely clean and laundered before any training session.
2. Belts can easily be vectors for transmitting disease too. There is no need to wear your brand new IJF Approved Mizuno or Adidas black belt to practice at this time. Wear an old white one and throw in the washer with your judogi after every workout for the next month or so.
3. Athletes should shower, lather up, and scrub vigorously before and after training sessions that involve close personal contact with a training partner.
4. Obviously, there should be **NO SHARING** of towels, water bottles, liquids, food, snacks, supplements, and etc.
5. Weights, machines, and other training aids should be wiped down using an appropriate cleaning solution between users.
6. Use hand sanitizer every time one enters or exits the dojo.
7. Clean feet with antibacterial/antiviral wipes every time one steps on to the mat.

### **Maintaining Social Distancing & Spacing:**

A good way to maintain some social distancing and spacing is to give your athletes their own 6' x 6' space to work in...

1. Envision your mat space as a grid with 6' x 6' squares (modified checker/chess board)
2. Use removable tape on your mat surface to define the 6' x 6' grid
3. Tear the tape and remove them in between the light or odd squares
4. Skip over a row (leave empty) and go to the next row
5. Tear the tape and remove them in between the dark or even squares
6. Repeat steps 3-5 until you are complete
7. This should leave you with 6' x 6' squares that are surrounded by 6' of free space for your athletes to work in



### **Use Face Masks:**

We encourage the use of face masks. Especially during the times when appropriate to do so: bowing in and out at the start and end of the class/practice, during times when there is group instruction, during lectures/talks. Furthermore, we encourage the use of face masks by all family, friends, guests, and visitors while they are inside of the dojo.

It is obviously a bit problematic to require the wearing of face masks while engaged in tachiwaza or newaza randori. It is certainly reasonable to require the wearing of face masks when engaged in less than rigorous activities. It helps to keep everyone mindful of the current pandemic and public health guidelines. The additional efforts to be diligent will likely be helpful in creating a safer and thoughtful environment for your current and potentially new members.

### **Dojo Cleaning:**

For dojos, best practice would be to:

- 1. Disinfect mats before and after training with a diluted bleach solution.** Mixing these proportions of bleach and water can make the bleach cleaning solution:  
5 tablespoons or 1/3rd cup of bleach per gallon of water  
**OR** 4 teaspoons of bleach per quart of water
- 2. Disinfect high touch areas such as doorknobs, handrails, benches and lockers.**
- 3. If possible, place hand sanitizer at entrances and exits.**

The bleach solution is very effective and the most economical, but here is a link to a list of commercially available disinfectants that should have antiviral activity against COVID-19 and other pathogens:

[https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-03/documents/sars-cov-2-list\\_03-03-2020.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-03/documents/sars-cov-2-list_03-03-2020.pdf)

The key for any of this to work is that you **must allow the solution to dry for at least 5 minutes for the full antiviral/antimicrobial effect.**

### **BLEACH CAUTIONS:**

1. As the bleach solution does contain bleach, it may affect the color/finish of whatever comes into contact with the bleach solution. It may also bleach-out or cause colors to fade, burn materials. Adversely affected items may include and not be limited to things like: clothing, painted objects, furniture, furnishings, cloth materials, leather, colored items, cloth, materials, metals, plastics, rubber, carpets, rugs, wood, paper, and etc.
- 2. Do NOT MIX the bleach or bleach water with any other chemicals or cleaning products. Mixing bleach with products containing acid or ammonia will result in the creation and release of HIGHLY TOXIC CHLORINE GAS and other dangerous by-products. Exposure to chlorine gas can cause serious permanent long-term injury and can be lethal.**
3. It would be prudent to use appropriate protective clothing & devices such as safety eyewear & gloves to protect your eyes and avoid any/prolonged contact with your skin.
4. Be sure that there is adequate ventilation when using bleach or the bleach solution.
5. Please be sure to take appropriate precautions to avoid any accidents, spills, and other foreseeable problems and dangers.

### **USJF Sanctioned Events:**

We are cancelling all previously USJF approved sanctions for events scheduled to occur on or before May 15, 2020. We will not accept sanction applications for any event to be scheduled to occur on or before May 15, 2020 October 31, 2020 December 31, 2020. We encourage event planners, organizers, and sponsors to wait until the current pandemic has subsided and the government restrictions and recommendations are lifted.

~~This prohibition is extended to May 31, 2020. On May 31, we will assess the state of the pandemic on May 31 and consider when it may be possible for us to recommence sanctioning events.~~

~~This prohibition is extended to June 30, 2020. On June 30, we will assess the state of the pandemic and consider when it may be possible for us to recommence sanctioning events.~~

~~This recommendation is extended to August 31, 2020. On August 31, we will assess the state of the pandemic and consider when it may be possible for us to recommence sanctioning events.~~

~~This recommendation is extended to September 30, 2020. On September 30, we will assess the state of the pandemic and consider when it may be possible for us to recommence sanctioning events.~~

~~This recommendation is extended to October 31, 2020. On October 31, we will assess the state of the pandemic and consider when it may be possible for us to recommence sanctioning events.~~

This recommendation is extended to December 31, 2020. On December 31, we will assess the state of the pandemic and consider when it may be possible for us to recommence sanctioning events.

**USJF National Office Update:**

In compliance with government recommendations and mandates, the USJF National Office will continue to operate with the staff generally working remotely from home as much as possible. We are observing social distancing by having only one (1) person in the office at any time. Much of our communication comes through the USPS mail. We will pick up and process our USPS mail as normal. As much as possible, work will be distributed and handled remotely. Though we will continue to answer the telephone, we strongly encourage you to communicate with us via email during these times. The National Office will continue operations in the current manner until “stay at home” mandates/restrictions are completely lifted.

**Next Update On ~~April 17, 2020~~ ~~May 1, 2020~~ ~~May 31, 2020~~ ~~June 30, 2020~~ ~~August 31, 2020~~ ~~September 30, 2020~~ ~~October 31, 2020~~ ~~December 31, 2020~~.**

At this time, we plan to issue an update on ~~April 17, 2020~~ ~~May 1, 2020~~ ~~May 31, 2020~~ ~~June 30, 2020~~ ~~August 31, 2020~~ ~~September 30, 2020~~ **October 31, 2020**. Should conditions change/worsen to an extent that further restrictions on elite athletes or any other actions are advisable, we will issue updated pertinent guidance at that time.

**Additional comments from Dr. Joseph:**

Again, this is a very unique and dynamic situation and these recommendations may need to be modified as new information and national guidelines become available. Please do not hesitate to contact either Dr. Chen, Dr. Fujimoto, or myself if you have any additional questions or concerns. Our contact information is listed below.

Best Regards,

USJF National Medical Committee

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