

# COLLEGE JUDOKA



NCJA Newsletter

*“Learn, Fight, Develop – The Collegiate Judo Athlete’s Way”*

Volume 1/Issue 1 (Academic Year 14 - Fall 2013)

## ACADEMIC YEAR 2014 MINOR CHANGES

-New Facebook Page: Search NCJA on Facebook and like our new page. Have your students visit the page and begin to interact with other Judo athletes throughout the world.

-Membership now runs from 1 AUG to 31 JUL of each academic year. As a collegiate organization, it makes sense that we work under an academic year format. This will allow for a smoother transition to the regional conferences by AY 2015. (More on page 3)

- Starting AY14 teams will receive a certificate of membership to display in their school or to provide their institution as proof of membership. (more on page 3)

## NCJA’S WAY AHEAD

Welcome to the new NCJA approach. The leadership has developed a four year plan that is designed to improve the experience of the collegiate athletes and to close the development gap that currently exists in between junior and college athletes. The full concept will be presented at the 2014 Annual Meeting at Texas A & M; however, below are the objectives per year:

AY14 Objective: Increase Membership and bring back the All-American recognition for Individual National Champions in the advanced divisions. (See page 4 for our initial approach)

AY15 Objective: Develop Six Regional Conferences that host their own Championships before the National Event. (Conferences in Page 4)

AY16 Objective: Expansion to 9 Regional Conferences that are fully integrated where conference champions are recognized at the National Tournament.

AY17 End State: A fully integrated organization that recognizes athlete’s potential and contributes to the development of Judo athletes during their formative collegiate years.

**Your NCJA Leaders for 2013-2017 (Visit the website for leaders profile)**

President: Dr. Hector R. Morales-Negron, US Military Academy at West Point. Email: [ncja\\_president@aol.com](mailto:ncja_president@aol.com)

Vice-President: Mr. Dan Gomez, Texas A & M. Email: [tamujudo@gmail.com](mailto:tamujudo@gmail.com)

Secretary: Mr. John Hampton, Ball State University. Email: [judojph57@yahoo.com](mailto:judojph57@yahoo.com)

Treasurer and Membership: Mr. James Paterson, Milwaukee School of Engineering. Email: [jpeterston230@wi.rr.com](mailto:jpeterston230@wi.rr.com)

Executive Assistant to the Board: Mr. Bob Perez, Texas A & M. Email: [bohperez@library.tamu.edu](mailto:bohperez@library.tamu.edu)



Regional Collegiate Competition at Drexel University  
(2013)



2011 NCJA Championships West Point. Ernest Ojito vs. Art Lin both NCJA Alumni

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*“Welcome Student-Athletes! Yes, you are a student-athlete and don’t let anyone tell you otherwise” – Dr. Morales, NCJA President at 2013 Championships*

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## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

We are moving ahead with our first objective this year: increasing our membership. For this academic year, if your students can motivate three other schools in your region to join the NCJA, you will not have to pay this year’s membership. Again, all you have to do is find three other schools in your area with Judo programs and talk to them about the exciting way ahead of the NCJA. Once the three recommended schools have signed up, your AY14 membership will be immediately renewed. Attached to this email there is a list of schools that list Judo as a club in their campus. Go find some programs, HAJIME!

## Contact Us

NCJA

[www.ncjajudo.com](http://www.ncjajudo.com)

Find us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/National-Collegiate-Judo-Association/185905511562030>

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The following new programs have already joined us for this AY:

University of Hawaii and Drexel University (Campus Philly Judo)

There are plenty more out there...let’s spread the word!

Welcome and see you at Texas A & M!

## NCJA TOURNAMENT FORMAT PROVIDES TEAMS WITH MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO SUCCEED

We believe that many collegiate programs are unaware of the current NCJA tournament format. If they have been away for a while, they only remember the black belt division dominated by the same schools each year. Currently, we fight for four collegiate team titles as well as 32 individual divisions. The Men and Women’s novice divisions are for beginner athletes that are white through green belts in all Olympic weight divisions. The Advanced Men and Women’s Divisions are run as an USA Judo E level event also in the traditional categories. Visit our website to see the results for the last ten years. Lastly, we have included a Kata Division that occurs early in the event where athletes get to compete and demonstrate the quality of their technique.

## 2014 NCJA CHAMPIONSHIPS: KATA, NOVICE MEN AND WOMEN, ADVANCED MEN AND WOMEN NATIONAL JUDO CHAMPIONSHIPS

Texas A & M is preparing to host the 2014 National Collegiate Championships. They have a new facility and are prepared to host a World Class event as usual. We hope to see you at the event. We will start the weekend with our annual meeting, followed by the draw, and a great Saturday of College Judo. We are also planning on hosting a team competition this year. Texas A & M, our host program, will provide more details on the event as we get closer to championships.

## 2014 NCJA CHAMPIONSHIPS: BANQUET FOLLOWING THE CHAMPIONSHIPS

At Texas A & M, plan on having your team participate in the NCJA hosted banquet. It is the leadership’s objective to host this event at the culmination of each national event. All team and special individual awards will be given at this event. The primary purpose of this event is to foster a positive environment that will lead to long lasting relationships through our

common experience in Judo. These young athletes are the future of our sport and the relationships they develop today will lead to strong bonds and better working relationships in the future of this organization.

## MEMBERSHIP (CONTINUED)

If your club already paid for their membership in 2013, you are covered for the first semester of AY14; however, you need to send in a check for \$25 to cover the second semester. For more information about the status of your membership please contact Jim Peterson at [jpeterson230@wi.rr.com](mailto:jpeterson230@wi.rr.com)

## MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE: SHOW IT WITH PRIDE

Once you receive your membership certificate, share it with your intuition. Showing that you are member of an organized program and that you are working towards national level participation will help your club.



## GROWING OUR ORGANIZATION: FINAL NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Over the last 53 years, the NCJA has seen great times as well as times of diminished participation that placed our collegiate developmental program in jeopardy. We must recognize that there is a significant gap between junior development in Sport Judo and their opportunities to participate at high school and collegiate level. We must also recognize that there is not a significant number of academia Judokas that can start and sustain programs in colleges and universities. Currently, the majority of our programs are classified as competitive clubs and we have struggled to bring them higher than that level of athletic classification. The majority of the collegiate coaches are not full time paid coaches and that hurts our program development. In the past, the organization has tried to turn Judo into a NCAA or NAIA sport without success. While I don't think that is an impossible task, we first must grow our membership and show that we can effectively organize and run our sport.

In order to assist with growing our programs, we are encouraging a new approach for already existing Judo clubs through the three national organizations who are close to college campuses to create collegiate teams. For example, Camal Judo in New Jersey, could identify all university programs within driving distance of their Dojo and advertise their

collegiate development program. They may have three community colleges and two major universities within their area and these students while training together, would represent their individual college campuses. The positive aspect of development is that once there are 10 or more students from the same campus, they can apply to become recognized as a club at their university with training or meeting location at Camal's Judo. Once the club is officially or conditionally accepted, the club can request membership in the NCJA. Again, this already established and high level competition club, could have several college teams in their school and would provide opportunities for these college student-athletes to compete at the regional and national championships.

As stated above, the NCJA championships have both, novice and advanced divisions. It is a great opportunity to make college students fall in love with the sport which in term may later motivate them to encourage their own kids to practice Judo helping the growth in participation of the sport we love.

## REGIONAL CONFERENCES TO BE SET AT THE 2014 ANNUAL MEETING

If you are interested in becoming a leader in your region, to assist the expansion of the NCJA into recognized regional conferences, you need to be at the next national meeting. We will conduct this meeting on Friday March 7<sup>th</sup> at the Texas A & M before the draw. At the meeting, we will describe the duties of these regional conference leaders and will provide an overview of the connection with the bigger NCJA objectives. In our vision, the conferences will conduct their 2015 regional championship late fall 2014 or (January/Feb 2015). The winners of the advanced divisions of these regional conferences will not have to pay their entry fee for the **2015** NCJA National Championships. It is up to the regional conferences to decide if they want to provide any financial support to these regional conferences champions to attend the national event; however, each regional champion will receive a letter from the NCJA stating that their performance at the regional championships has qualified the student-athlete for the NCJA tournament entry fee stipend. Many sports and recreation departments would sponsor athletes that qualify to compete for a national championship. Below is the breakdown for the **AY15** regional conferences:

**NCJA Mid Atlantic Conference:** Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Rhode Island, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania

**NCJA South East Conference:** Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Puerto Rico

**NCJA Heartland Conference:** Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota

**NCJA South West Conference:** Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas,

**NCJA Rocky Mountains Conference:** Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming

**NCJA Pacific Coast Conference:** California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, Hawaii

If you have any questions about the content of this Newsletter, please contact Dr Hector Morales, at [ncja\\_president@aol.com](mailto:ncja_president@aol.com)