

OSJI "Blue Sky" Minutes

A meeting was held at the home of Russ Scherer, President OSJI, on January 5, 2003 to brainstorm and discuss potential activities of the OSJI to enhance the development of Judo in the state of Ohio. The meeting was open to all persons interested in developing Judo, without regard to organizational affiliations. The group was asked to try to think "out of the box". The results of this meeting will be considered when developing future programs of the OSJI. Unfortunately, several individuals who had planned on attending did not make it due to the snow. Thanks to those who did attend and gave their opinions as to what path OSJI should follow to effectively serve and develop our sport.

The following topics were discussed:

Income

Internal - those funds brought into the OSJI from members of the practicing Judo community

Club Dues - amount depends on the number of clubs we can get to register - the fee per club is fixed with \$25 of the fee going to OSJI and this should not be raised

Individual Dues - amount depends on the number of individual players we can get to register - the fee per individual is fixed with \$5 of the fee going to OSJI and this should not be raised

Sanction Fees - amount depends on the number of sanctioned events we have - the fee per sanction is fixed with \$15 of the fee going to OSJI and this should not be raised

Promotion Fees - amount depends on the number of promotions that are registered through OSJI - the fee per promotion was recently raised and this will be a topic of discussion at the next Promotion Board meeting

Certification Fees - amount depends on the number of certifications conducted through the OSJI certification programs - the fee per certification depends on the type and level of certification and there is no plan to raise any of these fees at the current time

Fundraising Dinners - several types of fundraising dinners were discussed - the most popular suggestion was to host the event in a Union Hall, Fraternal Organization Lodge, etc. (try to get facility donated) - this event will be held during the mid to late August time period this year - this dinner will be combined with the OSJI awards program where outstanding player, coach, official, etc. will be recognized

Clinic Fees - The desire is to keep clinic fees reasonable and increase our income by increasing participation.

Tournament Fees (excluding Spectators) - The desire is to keep entry fees reasonable and increase income and opportunity by hosting a larger number of events, especially development tournaments for novice players

OSJI Life Membership Fees (start program) - There was limited interest in reviving this OSJI program. At a later time a committee may be formed to look into the benefits (for members and the organization) - This is low priority and only possibly a future project

External - these are activities where the source of income is primarily from outside the OSJI community

Bowling, Golf, etc. Tournaments - not a lot of interest - currently not a priority but if anyone has a keen interest in helping to organize any such activity contact Russ Scherer

Judo Tournaments (Spectator Fees) - not expected to be a significant source of income currently

Mat/Equipment Rentals - this has been a significant source of income due to the dedication of Jim and Hannah Starcher - these funds are kept in a mat replacement fund and the fees are kept to a minimum to encourage the use of our mats which has upgraded the standard in the Midwest for tournament playing surfaces (which provides safer competition for our players)

Merchandise Sales (OSJI & Judo Generic) - this program will not be undertaken at this time

Raffles, Candy Sales, Car Washes, etc. - The idea of holding raffles at special events was supported with most interest in "50/50 raffles" and potentially "reverse raffles" - Activities such as Candy Sales, Car Washes, etc. were not considered favorably due to the difficulty of having the entire state support such activities - it was thought that such fundraisers should be left to individual clubs

Giant "Garage Sale" (possibly with Judo Demos)[publicity effort] - Again, the garage sale part should be left to individual clubs or done regionally - there was merit seen in having Judo demonstrations at places like the World Affair, county fairs, the Ohio State Fair, etc.

Corporate Donations - Corporate Physical Fitness Groups were discussed as potential contacts to develop relations with corporations. It was suggested that

requesting financial support for specific events/projects may meet with greater success than asking for general donations.

Public Donations - Conversation centered on public grants and it was noted that some colleges offer support in grant writing. It was suggested that a separate person should specialize in looking for grants. All activities in pursuit of donations (corporate and public) should be coordinated and tracked in the OSJI.

Expense/Programs

No Funds Required - These are activities that require effort but little or no funds

Develop Mission Statement and Goals of OSJI - This will be a function of the Executive Committee and will give clarity of purpose.

Develop 4 year plan for OSJI w/milestones - Our 4 year plan will map a path to accomplish our goals, both short and long term. By establishing a timeline with specified milestones, the OSJI should be able to accomplish more and when events change our priorities, we can readjust our plans. People working on specific projects will be held accountable for the progress in that area and additional resources may be added by the Executive Committee or President.

Detail and Appoint Committees - Program Directors will be asked to look at their responsibilities and use subcommittees which will be formally appointed to help attain their goals

Super Saturday Programs (generates funds) - At least 2 , and possibly 3 Super Saturday programs will be held in 2003. They will include multiple clinics (competitors, promotion technique, kata, referee, timer/scorer and tournament administration) to provide a full judo day for all interests in the sport. They will be run by instructors in Ohio and will be open to surrounding states, as well as Ohio. In addition to providing a great opportunity to learn, they should generate some funds for OSJI programs.

Internal Clinic Program (split profit w/elite OSJI athlete) - This program will help both our "elite" athletes and all other participants. Clinics will be arranged by the OSJI that utilize elite Ohio players as clinicians, especially when they return from national or international training camps and tournaments. Funds (after expenses) will be split between the Athlete Clinician and the OSJI. The athlete will use these funds for further training and the OSJI will use these funds for additional development programs. This will provide an opportunity for the greatest number of athletes and coaches to be exposed to the latest top level techniques and training methods without the cost of major travel.

Novice Development Tournaments/Divisions (Jr, Sr, Masters, Kata & Techniques) [pool elimination system, low fees, low cost awards, low facility costs, Referee & Table Officials Training] This coordinated training program will provide opportunity for our less experienced Judoka to compete with their peers of near equivalent skill and experience levels. It is anticipated that this will spur

growth of our sport in Ohio. We will look for low cost sites and try to keep costs down while trying to provide opportunity for success for a larger number of our players.

Seasonal League Competition - It was suggested that this program start with small "dual meets" and if successful build on that foundation. A committee will be established to set up districts and rules for a "dual meet" program. If you are interested, contact Mike Mooney (Director of Development) or Russ Scherer (President). There was a lot of interest in placing emphasis on local/sectional development programs.

Develop a State High School Judo Program - The potential importance of this activity was recognized but the group felt that it was something that should be addressed in the future

Electronic Communication (Standard w/exceptions only sent by mail) - In order to expedite communications, as well as save money, the group supported the concept that all communications should occur electronically (e-mail, website, etc.) whenever possible and regular mail only be used for those clubs which do not have access to e-mail.

Investigate on-line OSJI Registration - It was decided that this would not be pursued at this time.

Investigate Credit Card Acceptance - It was decided not to pursue this at this time.

Club Visitation Program (OSJI to clubs)[recruitment & support] - This topic received a lot of support. All clubs are highly encouraged to visit other clubs, especially in their area for joint workouts, etc. As mentioned earlier, there is a strong desire to develop cooperative working relationships and activities at a district level.

Inter-club Workouts (Scheduled) - Highly supported by the group in attendance. See comments above.

State-wide Workouts (Scheduled) [Jr. & Sr.] - Favored, especially as a follow-on to "district workouts"

Document Current OSJI Programs and Procedures - Considered important and we must get the word out.

Review, Update and Publish OSJI Constitution/Bylaws - see above comments

Update OSJI Code of Operations - see above comments

Update and Publish OSJI Promotion Requirements and Procedures - see above comments

Revise/implement Event Report Form - This will help administratively

Review/update Standards for OSJI Championships - Considered important

Support Regional Activities (non-financial) - We need to encourage support of activities sponsored individually or collectively by states surrounding Ohio. We need to support these activities and use them to round out our programs.

Work with MCJC and other Midwest States to develop Collegiate Judo Conferences - perhaps in the future

Obtain and post OSJI/USA Judo Coach Certification Program on OSJI Web-site - This should be done

Obtain and post OSJI/USA Judo Instructor Certification Program on OSJI Web-site - This should be done

- Establish e-mail/web-site sign-up for each Midwest tournament (Referees, Table Officials, Kata Judges, etc.) - Support for this concept was expressed. It will be a "longer term project".
- Communications - Presidential Notes (Monthly) - Newsletter (Quarterly) - put on Web - This will help keep everyone informed of our activities and give recognition to those who excell.
- Establish e-mail addresses for all members - use for info distribution - A good idea that will allow wider distribution of information. Hannah has a start on this project from last year's state championships entry forms. We will try to add e-mail addresses as a standard piece of information requested on all tournament entry forms. Clubs will be encouraged to provide e-mail addresses for each of their club members.
- Have State-wide Judo Social Functions - Picnic, Snow Tubing, Canoe Trip, etc. - It was suggested to start such activities at the local/district level to see how it works.
- Eliminate Junior Promotion fees - No support for this suggestion, however the promotion fee structure will be reviewed by the Promotion Board.
- Adopt new junior promotion system of USA Judo (24 ranks) and reduce promotion fees - This will be evaluated in the future
- Host a series of "administrative" seminars - include "round table discussions" - club development/starting a new club/fundraising/etc. - There was not much support for this activity
- Host a series of "technical" seminars - Sports Medicine/Sports Psychology/Conditioning - There was not much support for this activity at this time.
- Collect and publish/display OSJI/Ohio Judo History - This is a project that may be looked at in the future. It was suggested to contact Bobby Anderson to see what he might offer in this area as a starting point.
- Establish "Ohio Judo Hall of Fame" - Possibly in the future
- Add section to OSJI Web Site - "Meet Ohio Judoka" - This idea received strong support and it was noted that we should follow established procedures prior to publishing this info.
- Provide aggressive follow up to renew all certifications of OSJI members (ref/coach/timers/etc.) Provide timely clinics for recertification. - There was a lot of support for this and it should be pushed by the Director of Standards & Certification.
- Evaluate putting full flyers of all Midwest Events on our Web Site (coordinate with Jim Carmer's site) - A good idea and we should utilize/coordinate with Carmer's site as much as possible.
- Establish special committee to work on Women's Collegiate Judo (coordinate w/Nestor Bustillo) - There is support for such a program and the group felt the best place to start is with the community colleges. A letter from OSJI, a booklet and guide, using Olympians to sell the program, etc. were all suggested to help the program. Joyce Edwards will try to collect information about potential colleges in Ohio that might support such a program, list available instructors and provide a "clearing house" function.

Funds Required

- Travelling Competitive Team - This program was strongly supported, with a desire to strengthen and expand the activity level for team members. District and state level training, as well as trips to competitions and clinics, was desired. Funding is always an issue, but as additional funds are generated more team activities will occur.
- Traveling Demo Team (with-in Ohio) - There was some support for such a program, but details will have to be worked out before going ahead with the program
- Shirts/warm-ups/jackets/bags/etc for travel teams - This was supported in concept and should be incrementally implemented as funds become available. It was suggested that team t-shirts (and later other team athletic clothing) could be given as part of the tournament awards.
- Support State Champs to Nationals (Sr, HS, Collegiate, & JO) - This effort should continue and we should look for additional ways to increase the support
- Elite Athlete Fund - Training Grants, Specific Event Support - This funding was supported and seen as necessary for providing a balanced development program with benefits for Ohio Judoka of all competitive levels.
- Establish Judo Camp Partial Scholarship Fund - This concept was supported and should be implemented as funds become available.
- Establish College Scholarship Fund for Ohio Judoka - The concept was supported for future development. A funding mechanism needs to be established.
- Buy Electronic Scoreboards - This may be something we look at in the future but currently it is considered a low priority
- Stock OSJI Medical Kit for Sanctioned Events - This should be supplied by the host of the event and was felt to be very low priority.
- Update/replenish Shiai Equipment Supplies (including Kata requirements) - It was felt that this is not required at this time.
- Recognition Awards Program - This was felt to be an important program and it should be supported.
- Obtain 501C(3) Appropriate Status - This was considered to be a very high priority activity for this year, as it impacts potential fundraising activities. It will be important to apply under the correct category to allow all the desired types of activities for promoting and developing our sport. Education is a key aspect of our goals.
- Administrative - phone, postage, web site, supplies, etc. - A certain amount of administrative expenses will be required to conduct the business of the OSJI. There is a desire to be efficient and cost effective, minimizing such expenditures whenever possible. One area of increased expenditures was expansion of the OSJI website. Electronic communications should be used whenever possible.
- Partially Support OSJI Reps to Regional/National Meetings - This concept was supported with limits to be pre-set in the budget.

Buy Judo Books Wholesale and Donate to Libraries - Instead of buying books at the current time, it was suggested that Judoka request libraries in their areas purchase specific judo books, designated by title.

Make OSJI Judo Video and Give to Libraries - This may be a project to be taken on in future years.

Make Generic Judo Poster for Clubs to Advertise their Program/Event - It was felt that national organizations already have such generic posters and we should not duplicate effort in this area.

Develop Club Manual (locations, recognition, equipment, technical, financial, etc) - There was no support for making a hard copy manual but, as an alternative, some of this type of information could be posted on our web site.

Support Regional Programs (Financially) - It was felt in general that our funds should be spent at this time on projects within the state. When more funds are available and a lot of our district and state level activities are adequately funded, it is recognized that the most efficient way to accomplish some of our goals may be to join financially with neighboring organizations to tackle a few specific programs. This might be a good approach in the future, but was not strongly supported at the current time.