

American Traditional Jujutsu Association

Preamble to the ATJA Code of Ethics

Ethics dynamically define our basic humanity and determine how well we will live together as a community.

ATJA 's Code of Ethics is our public identification of behaviors that we believe express our identity. We will support only behavior that serves the common good of ATJA and its membership. Any member's behavior that does not support the ATJA Code of Ethics, will not be tolerated.

The ATJA's Code of Ethics is not meant to preclude a member's personal belief of what is right or wrong. It is instead a general ethics code meant as a basic set of boundaries and principles which ATJA presents as representative and definitive of the organization, its mission and its identity.

Ethical behavior is required of all members of ATJA and is necessary for each member to remain in good standing. Final determination of what is ethical and unethical behavior is to be determined by the ATJA's elected Board of Directors.

Code of Ethics

All ATJA members are entrusted with the responsibility of creating an environment which allows every member to have an opportunity for a rewarding and positive experience while participating in ATJA related activities.

Each member will:

1. foster , ensure and contribute to the safety of all members.
2. never discriminate against anyone because of race, creed, sex, sexual orientation, nationality or disability.
3. engage only in honest and fair practices in business, that is related in any way to ATJA activities.
4. ensure that all ATJA practices, trainings, instruction, demonstrations and all public presentations of ATJA be conducted in an alcohol and drug free environment.
5. always engage in behavior that is appropriate to each participant's safety and the general order of any ATJA event.
6. never engage in activities that are or could be interpreted as sexually harassing, intimidating or offensive sexually oriented behavior.
7. approach all relationships with other members in a mature and honest fashion. Sexual relationships between consenting adult members is not our concern. However, sexual relationships between coaches and/or teachers and their students or athletes are strictly forbidden, regardless if it is true or not that the student or athlete has reached the legal age of consent.

8. never use rank, status, contingencies of favor, or any other superiority ploy to build an intimate relationship with another member. Such a relationship would be considered predatory in nature. Coaches and teachers will not encourage, develop and /or participate in intimate, personal, “special” and/or unprofessional relationships with students, athletes and/or their families.
9. never solicit or engage in any behavior that could be considered “grooming” or seen as potentially having sexual activity as an eventual outcome with any student or athlete, regardless if they are adults or children.
10. be in legal compliance with any and all criminal codes to include local, state and federal ordinances.
11. be free from felony convictions resulting from a guilty plea, judge or jury conviction or conviction resulting from a “no contest” plea. An individual with a felony conviction may only be an ATJA member if, after petitioning the Board of Directors, an exemption ruling is issued by said Board.
12. comply with the requirement to secure a background screening investigation according to the directives of the ATJA at the time intervals specified.

Standards

ATJA members will:

1. only provide training within their realm of recognized competency.
2. use the established ATJA Ethics procedures to resolve all charges of unethical behavior.
3. never misrepresent themselves through information based on falsification regarding qualifications, experience, accreditation or rank.
4. remain current on safety and health issues, and participate in the implementation of these issues in practices, trainings, demonstrations and all other ATJA activities.

Conflict of Interest

ATJA members are responsible for avoiding conflicts of interest, both actual and perceived, while acting in a business or official capacity for ATJA.

It is unethical for any ATJA member to:

1. achieve personal gain by using ATJA services, their position in office or authority,(explicit, implicit or inherent) or associated with their elected or appointed position in ATJA.
2. incur debt for ATJA that is unsubstantiated, unnecessary and/or unreasonable in ATJA’s name .
3. participate in any decision making within ATJA which could result in their immediate or future personal gain, either monetary or status enhancement in nature.

Enforcement of the Code

Enforcement of the ATJA Code of Ethics depends on voluntary compliance, peer involvement and the support and participation of all members. In all cases involving criminal behavior, legal recourse for complainants is given priority and local, state or federal authorities must be contacted. This is required before the Ethics Committee's investigation, report and recommendations can be concluded.

1. Any member with knowledge of a possible ethical violation is obliged to address the concerns directly to the member alleged to be in violation. This is the primary action to be taken, unless extraordinary circumstances prudently dictate otherwise. The responding member should comply to the satisfaction of the complaining member. The Ethics Committee is available to assist in this process and can assign a committee member to act as a consultant and/or negotiator. This primary step may be bypassed if the violation involves illegal activity or if such intervention is feared to possibly lead to an endangering situation.
2. Any member in personal ethical conflict is required to seek advice and counsel of a peer member and/or the Ethics Committee.
3. Any member, who after addressing an ethics concern directly to another member with unsatisfactory results, is required to file a signed, written complaint with the Chairman of the Ethics Committee and cooperate fully with all investigations.
4. Any individual, ATJA member or non-member, may file an ethics charge against an ATJA member by sending a signed written complaint to the Chairman of the Ethics Committee.
5. The Chairman will assess the complaint and determine if it has merit, (i.e. reports a violation of ATJA's Ethics Code). If the complaint is found to have merit, then the Chairman will assign the case to a Committee member for investigation.
6. At the conclusion of an investigation, a report with recommendations will be presented to the Board of Directors for final disposition.
7. The Chairman of the Ethics Committee has the right and responsibility to initiate and conduct an investigation without a written complaint having been filed, based on information of an ethics nature that is regarded by him or her to be credible. Information gathered in such an investigation or in a written complaint investigation, can be presented to the Board of Directors for disposition without informing the person or persons involved if, the Chairman determines that this information procedure best serves the safety of the membership and/or public involved with the ATJA and that the immediacy of time is essential for this safety. Due process for the respondent is served by the respondent having the right to appeal directly to the Board.
8. All appeals are to be made directly to the Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Specialized Enforcement:

In September 2020, the U.S. Center for SafeSport published the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP). Members of the some 50+ Olympic sports' National Governing Bodies were required to adopt the SafeSports program. The effective date was January 1, 2022. ATJA is a Class "A" organization under The National Governing Body of Judo, USA JUDO.

ATJA is required to defer to U.S.Center for SafeSport for all matters of Sexual Misconduct, Child Abuse and/or Neglect. These matters include all reasonable allegations, suspicions and rumors of Sexual Misconduct, Abuse or Neglect. ATJA members and officials are obliged to report such issues immediately to local law enforcement authorities and the U.S.Center for SafeSport. Please let it be noted here that Child Abuse and Misconduct includes emotional and physical misconduct encompassing bullying, hazing, stalking and harassment. Every ATJA member with knowledge of Sexual Misconduct, Abuse or Neglect is required to report this. These issues can be related to the national, regional or local levels of any Olympic Sport.

The ATJA Ethics Committee can only act on an issue after all adjudication and case conclusions of the U.S.Center for SafeSport and legal authorities are completed. These actions are to be in keeping with our published procedures and requires a summary committee report with recommendations to be presented to the Board of Directors for disposition.

TO REPORT a matter of Sexual Misconduct, Abuse or Neglect:

CALL: 833- 5US- SAFE or 833-587-7233

Or

On Line at: uscenterforsafesport.org/report-a-concern

Or

CALL USA Judo 719-866-4730....Attention Mr. Austin Leath

All members of ATJA having direct contact with students as volunteer assistants or those members holding the Judo or JuJutsu rank of Black Belt must complete the SafeSport courses required at the intervals indicated to remain an ATJA member in good standing