

To whom it may concern,

I have been involved in judo for just over 10 years and I can tell you it has been a wild ride. From starting in the sport as an adult to winning a silver medal in the Paralympics. I have seen the good and the bad as well as the top and the bottom of the sport and the NGB. As a Paralympic Athlete I also have the insight of being part of an under represented group within the NGB, under developed and an athlete with additional adversities. I believe that with my experiences and drive I can be a mindful and knowledgeable member to the USA Judo Athlete Advisory Council.

I believe that there are lots of things that we can improve on together as a sport and the way to do that is to increase engagement and excitement in clubs across the country all while making all athletes feel safe and supported. The sport can only truly grow when the development of strategies to reach new kids adults and visually impaired athletes is reality. From there it is all about communication and fostering growth potentially by having elite athletes and high level coaches going to clubs to figure out how USA Judo can do better as well as provide high level training by some of the best in the game. These are simple things that can help create interest on the lowest level of the membership. Obviously this is combined with good communication via emails and content on the website. I have gained a lot during my time as an athlete in the sport of Judo and this is how we get better. It is by making sure we are building the athletes up so that they are stronger not only as athletes but in the rest of their personal and professional lives. The more successful our athletes are the more positive USA Judo will be in their eyes and the more they will be a good steward of the sport and possibly contribute to the advancement of the sport in the future.

I believe that I am easy to talk to and good at working in a team. I am logical and can be decisive when needed. Judo is a very rational sport and I would look forward to taking the environment of the sport in the US and providing the needed reinforcement to the continuously growing structure of USA Judo. A well-equipped and informed membership is the first step to having a successful NGB.

Your Friend in Sport  
Ben Goodrich