



UNITED STATES JUDO FEDERATION

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December 12, 2001

Mr. Don Cunningham

Dear Mr. Cunningham:

I hope that this letter finds you in good health and spirits, enjoying the Holiday Season. We received your inquiry regarding Mr. Rod Sacharnowski's rank with the United States Judo Federation (USJF).

Our records show that Rodney Sacharnowski was promoted to Shodan, 1st Degree Black Belt, by our organization. His rank promotion number is 1-3221, and the promotion date is April 4, 1969. According to our records, he has not been promoted to any higher rank by USJF.

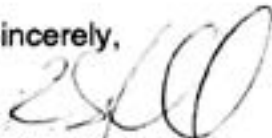
With regard to your questions about Mr. Sacharnowski's 8th Dan rank on his USJF membership card:

1. It used to be common practice for our regional associations to put rank information on an individual's membership card.
2. As a courtesy to individuals whose rank was not obtained from the USJF, it was not unusual for our regional association to put the supplied rank information on the membership card. This was generally done without requiring any proof, or obtaining verification of the claim of the individual.
3. Some individuals have tried to use their USJF membership card, with the rank on it, as proof of having received USJF rank promotions. This is not correct and is a problem. Individuals with USJF promotions, would have a USJF promotion certificate. Additionally, their rank promotion number and date would be in our files here.
4. Consequently, we no longer allow black belt ranks to appear on membership cards.
5. In addition to the actual promotion certificate, we issue a separate "Dan Rank Promotion" card to serve as verification and evidence of a USJF Black Belt Promotion being awarded to an individual.

6. We only recognize Black Belt Promotions issued by the United States Judo, Inc., United States Judo Association, International Judo Federation, and all national federations of judo who are members of and recognized by the International Judo Federation.
7. Promotions issued/granted by other organizations would not be recognized by the USJF.

If you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office. Thank you very much.
Best Wishes for a Safe & Happy Holiday Season!

Sincerely,



Robert S. Fukuda
Executive Director

cc: USJF Law & Legislation Committee
USJF Executive Committee