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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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USA Judo Youth and Scholastic U.S. National Championships headed to Grand Rapids, April 2 -3

Grand Rapids competition serves as qualifier for the Judo Cadet World Championships

Grand Rapids, Mich., March 2, 2011 –The USA Judo Youth and Scholastic National Championships will be held April 2-3, 2011 at the DeVos Place (303 Monroe Avenue Northwest Grand Rapids, MI 49503). This year's event will showcase over 400 of the top U.S. amateurs, ranging from 5-28 years old. Athletes will be divided into nine categories based on age, rank, and weight. Eight of the categories are catered to junior class, which includes all athletes under the age of 19.

Grand Rapids will serve as one final opportunity for athletes to secure a spot in the Cadet World Championships. Any participant that finishes in first or second place within their division will qualify. The Cadet World Championships will be held in Kiev, Ukraine on August 11-14, 2011.

With the success of last years President Cup, USA Judo returns to West Michigan. "We are pleased that USA Judo found Grand Rapids to be a successful destination for their President's Cup tournament and are returning with their Youth and Scholastic National Championships this year. The Youth and Scholastic tournament promises to bring even more visitors to our area based primarily on the number of athletes that participate, but also because of the age of the athletes and their family members that will be traveling with them. We look forward to working with our partners and the local Judo community to welcome the athletes and their families to West Michigan this April" stated Mike Guswiler, Executive Director of the West Michigan Sports Commission.

The Championships will also include a collegiate open. This division is designed for college students, but members of the junior class are also eligible to compete within the collegiate open if they meet 15 year age requirement.



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This event will be open to the public with a spectator admission fee of \$12.00 per person per day. Children under 8 years of age are free. Children 9 -12 years of age are \$8 per day or \$14 for two days and two-day adult passes are \$20.00.

For more information on the USA Judo Youth and Scholastic National Championships, please visit www.usjudo.org or contact Ernest Pund, by phone at (719) 866-4730.

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About USA Judo

USA Judo is the only recognized National Governing Body for Judo by the United States Olympic Committee. As a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization, USA Judo promotes the evolution of Martial Arts styles and Self Defense systems, from white belt to black belt.

About West Michigan Sports Commission:

The West Michigan Sports Commission's main goal is to promote Michigan's West Coast as the premier venue for hosting a diverse level of youth and amateur sporting events, enhancing the economy and quality for life in the region.

Youth and Scholastic National Championship Event Schedule

Saturday April 2, 2011

8:00 am	Doors open
8:45 am	Opening Ceremonies
9:00 am	Competition begins for Juvenile A, B, Bantam and Senior Collegiate
7:00 pm	Draw for Intermediate 1 & 2/IJF-Junior categories

Sunday April 3, 2011

8:00 am	Doors open
9:00 am	Competition begins – Intermediate 1 & 2, IJF-Junior and Novice Collegiate categories