

Report on the 2nd North American Kudo Championship

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The 2nd North American Kudo Championship was held on Saturday, June 13, 2026, in Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA.

A total of 37 athletes from three countries—the United States, Canada, and Mexico—participated, delivering a series of spirited and competitive matches.

KIF extends its sincere appreciation to the USA Kudo Federation, to Branch Chief James Alexander for overseeing the event operations, and to all participating athletes and referees.

As this was only the second edition of the championship, many athletes are still in the process of becoming fully accustomed to Kudo rules. Nevertheless, several promising competitors emerged, and the number of dojos in the region continues to grow steadily. With more tournaments to come and increased opportunities for competition experience, the overall level of Kudo in North America is expected to rise significantly.

Regarding refereeing, KIF dispatched Chief Referee Komatsu and Referee Azuma, who provided detailed instruction and corrections to local referees throughout the event. As a result, the second A-Class licensed referee in North America was certified at this tournament.

Just like athletes, referees also require match experience to develop their skills, and we look forward to continued improvement in refereeing standards across the region through further practical experience.

Additionally, a rules meeting and referee seminar led by Branch Chiefs James and William featured highly productive discussions and Q&A sessions. These sessions greatly contributed to deepening the understanding of Kudo rules among instructors and referees, and will undoubtedly support the future development of tournament operations and technical standards in North America.

As instructors gain a more accurate understanding of Kudo rules, training methods will naturally evolve, leading to further enhancement of competition quality.

Next year, the World Championships will be held. At last year's World Cup, two champions emerged from the United States, and we have high expectations for strong performances from North American athletes at the upcoming World Championships as well.

