



BANDO



ABA/NBAA_NL_02_05212024



Group picture following the Open Ceremony at the May 18th ABA/NBAA National Freestyle Tournament

We would like to thank everyone in attendance and everyone with us in spirit at the 2024 ABA/NBAA National Freestyle Tournament. We saw great work by all competitors, also to include honored guests, tournament committee, spectators, and many full contact fighters. Thank you all for your participation. It was a great day with many great Bando schools: Athens, Baltimore, DMV, Greater Hartford, Hiwassee, PA Bando, Steubenville, Weirton, Wheeling, Charles King students, Ken Ortner students, Sam Jones with Sam's Gym and Chad Blevins' students. A day of bringing our Bando brothers and sisters together.

Wheeling Bando hosted the Freestyle Tournament, at the Liberty Distributors Total Athlete Center on Saturday, May 18th. We had over 70 competitors ranging in age from 8 to 82 and rank from White Belt to 6th level Black Belt. There were weapons and defensive tactics demonstrated by Black Belts as part of their being considered for rank advancement along with under Belts showing their proficiency in weapons and self defense tactics. Twenty-four members were promoted, adhering to the criteria of 1. Active/Perform, 2. Current Members, and 3. Recommendation/Confirmation. Afterwards, sparring took place for all except the Black Belt members who's served as judges and match referees for the under Belt matches. After these matches, full contact matches took place. It was a great day and enjoyed by all. We were able again, to see and gab with our out of state Bando Brothers, Sisters and friends! After this years success, we are already looking forward to next years Nationals in May.

Look out for upcoming clinics or tournaments for the year 2024. Additionally, as a reminder, an event honoring Dr. Gyi will be held in Columbus during the weekend of September 14, 2024. Information on this event will be released as we receive it.

