



Subject: Proposed By-Law Updates for Membership Review

Dear Voting Members,

Over the past several months, the Board of Directors and a dedicated By-Law Review Committee have been working to update our by-laws. These changes are designed to bring greater clarity to our governance, align with current legal requirements, and adopt best practices that will strengthen Judo Ontario for the years ahead.

Why Change Was Needed

- **Voting process:** Updates to bring greater clarity to the voting process and add proxy voting and to comply with Ontario's Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA).
- **Membership categories:** To clarify who is considered a voting member versus a participant.
- **Board structure:** To address the lack of turnover, and shift to a more governance-focused board with clearer roles for staff and committees.
- **Best practices:** To begin to shift towards Sport Canada's governance guidelines which many provincial sport organizations are already adopting.

Key Recommendations

Voting Process

- Clarified wording in line with ONCA.
- Eligible voters:
- Black belt members and clubs.
- Clubs receive 1 additional vote per 10 registered members (black belt or colour belt).
- Proxy voting permitted; proxy may be held by any black belt voting member.
- Voting only during meetings (virtual or in person).

Membership

- Voting members: black belts and clubs.
- All other categories (colour belts, intro, school, self-defense) are deemed participants.

Board of Directors Structure

- 5 named executive positions and 4 directors-at-large.
- Named positions: President, Treasurer, Secretary General, VP Technical, VP Competitions.
- Directors-at-large and Treasurer can be any registered member (not limited to black belts).

Terms

- 3-year terms with staggered elections (3 positions each year).
- Maximum of 3 consecutive terms, followed by a 1-year break before re-eligibility.
- Transition plan in place for 2026/2027 to shift fully to 3-year cycles.



A full copy of the proposed by-laws is available on the Judo Ontario website - <https://www.judoontario.ca/agm>. We encourage all voting members to review the details in advance of the AGM, where the membership will vote on adopting these changes. If you have any questions or concerns, please address them to James Cunningham (executivedirector@judoontario.ca) prior to the AGM.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to Judo Ontario and for helping us build a stronger, more sustainable organization.

Sincerely,

James Cunningham
Executive Director
executivedirector@judoontario.ca